

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 855

House of Representatives, March 18, 1915.

*Reported by Mr. Michaud from Committee on Public Health
and ordered printed under joint rules.*

C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN

AN ACT relating to the Inspection of Hotels, Inns and Room-
ing Houses.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Section 1. The state board of health shall use its influ-
2 ence so far as it can for the improvement and the mainte-
3 nance of the health conditions of the various places in the
4 state to which visitors resort, and of the hotels and other
5 buildings which are used for the reception or entertainment
6 of transient or other guests. Under the supervision and
7 the authority of the state board of health, hotels, inns and
8 rooming houses shall be inspected as is provided in section
9 seven of this act. The state board of health shall appoint

10 an inspector or inspectors of hotels, and to said inspectors or
11 other duly authorized agents of the state board of health
12 there is hereby granted police power to enter or have access
13 to any hotel, inn, or rooming house at reasonable hours to
14 determine whether the provisions of this act are being com-
15 plied with. The secretary of the said board shall, by means
16 of a complete set of books, or card catalog system, keep on
17 record the conditions of each hotel, inn, and rooming house
18 inspected, as regards sanitation, number of sleeping rooms,
19 number and conditions of its fire escapes, together with the
20 names of the owners, proprietors and managers thereof, and
21 any other information for the betterment of the public serv-
22 ice. He shall keep a true and accurate account of all ex-
23 penses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this act.
24 together with a true and accurate statement of all fees col-
25 lected from applicants for hotel, inn, and rooming-house
26 licenses, and quarterly he shall file sworn and itemized state-
27 ments of said expenses and fees with the state auditor. He
28 shall have power and it shall be his duty to issue upon
29 proper application all hotel, inn, and rooming-house licenses
30 provided for in this act, to the applicant or applicants
31 therefor.

Sect. 2. The provisions of this act shall apply to all
2 buildings or collection of buildings or premises under the
3 same management which are used, maintained or held out
4 to the public as places where eating and sleeping accommo-
5 dations or where sleeping accommodations alone are of-

6 fered for pay to transient or other guests, and in which ten
8 or more rooms are in use or are available for the use of
9 guests.

Sect. 3. Beginning on the first day of August, nineteen
2 hundred and fifteen, and on the first day of each succeed-
3 ing August, every individual or association of individuals,
4 firm or corporation, now engaged in the business of main-
5 taining or conducting such business shall procure from the
6 state board of health, for each hotel, inn, or rooming house,
7 so conducted or proposed to be conducted, a hotelkeeper's,
8 innkeeper's, or rooming house keeper's license, as the case
9 may be. Such license shall take the place of an innholder's
10 license as provided in chapter twenty-nine, section one of the
11 revised statutes of Maine. Every such license shall be non-
12 transferable, shall expire on the first day of August next
13 following its issuance, and shall be revoked for the mainte-
14 nance of the licensee's premises in any way contrary to
15 the provisions of this act, either by the licensee or his or its
16 authorized agent. And no hotel, inn, or rooming house
17 shall be maintained or conducted after the first day of Au-
18 gust, nineteen hundred and fifteen, without a license as
19 herein provided.

Sect. 4. Every hotel, inn, or rooming house containing
2 fifteen rooms or less for the accommodation of the public
3 shall pay an annual license fee of two dollars; every hotel,
4 inn or rooming house containing more than fifteen and less
5 than fifty rooms for the accommodation of the public shall

6 pay an annual license fee of three dollars; and every hotel.
7 inn or rooming house containing fifty rooms or more shall
8 pay an annual license fee of five dollars; and the license
9 fee shall be paid to the secretary of the state board of health
10 before said license is issued, and the said secretary shall,
11 on the first of each month, pay into the state treasury all
12 fees collected for licenses issued during the preceding
13 month, and the money thus turned over to the state treasury
14 shall constitute a permanent fund from which the salaries of
15 the inspectors of the state board of health and the neces-
16 sary and legitimate expenses incurred in carrying out the
17 provisions of this act shall be paid.

Sect. 5. The state board of health shall, upon request
2 therefor, furnish to every individual or association of indi-
3 viduals, firm or corporation desiring to conduct a hotel, inn
4 or rooming house, the necessary application blank for a li-
5 cense, which the applicant shall fill in, stating the full name
6 and address of the owner, or agent and manager and pro-
7 prietor of such hotel, inn or rooming house, together with
8 a full description of the building or buildings and prem-
9 ises to be used for such business, and stating the location of
10 same, which application, upon its return to the state board
11 of health, shall be accompanied by the license fee which is
12 provided in section four. Upon receipt of the proper ap-
13 plications in writing, together with legal license fees the
14 state board of health shall issue the proper licenses to such
15 applicants as shall have complied with all legal requirements.

Sect. 6. The state board of health is hereby authorized to
2 make, alter, modify, or revoke rules and regulations which,
3 in the opinion of the board, may be found necessary to in-
4 sure cleanly, healthful and safe conditions in the buildings
5 and on the premises which shall be used as hotels, inns or
6 rooming houses and to guard against the transmission of
7 infection in such places. The rules and regulations made
8 by the state board of health under the provisions of this
9 section shall not become valid until they have been approved
10 by the governor and council and then published in the state
11 paper, as is provided in section nine of chapter eighteen
12 of the revised statutes.

Sect. 7. The state board of health shall, so far as it is
2 possible, have every hotel, inn and rooming house inspected
3 at least once each year, and shall, furthermore, make a note
4 of all complaints which may be received about the condi-
5 tions in or around any hotels, inns or rooming houses, and
6 shall, as far as practicable, investigate the grounds for such
7 complaints: provided, that the work done by the state board
8 of health and the inspectors of the said board shall not be
9 more than that for which the expenses may be paid by the
10 license fees provided in section five. Whenever, upon any
11 inspection it shall be found that, in any hotel, inn or room-
12 ing house, the equipment and service are not cleanly, health-
13 ful and safe, the inspector of the state board of health shall
14 thereupon notify the owner, agent or lessee of the building
15 or buildings, or the proprietor or manager of the business

16 conducted therein, either one or all of them as the case
17 may require, of such changes as may be necessary to effect
18 a complete compliance with the rules and regulations of the
19 state board of health, setting forth in the notice the num-
20 ber or numbers of the section or sections of the rules and
21 regulations of the state board of health which are not com-
22 plied with. It shall thereupon become the duty of such
23 owner, agent or lessee and of such proprietor or manager,
24 either one or both, to make such changes as may be neces-
25 sary to effect a full compliance with the requirements of
26 the state board of health; provided, however, that when-
27 ever any structural changes are ordered a reasonable pe-
28 riod of time, and in no case less than thirty days, shall be
29 allowed for conforming with the requirements. Every in-
30 dividual or association of individuals, firm or corporation,
31 failing or refusing to comply with the written orders of the
32 state board of health given in accordance with the provi-
33 sions of this act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and
34 shall be subject to a fine of five dollars for each and every
35 day of his refusal or failure to so comply.

Sect. 8. Any owner, agent, or lessee of any building used
2 for a hotel, inn or rooming house, and any proprietor or
3 manager of any hotel, inn or rooming house, or other person
4 registered letter to the owner, agent, or lessee of the build-
5 provided in section three, or who shall obstruct or hinder
6 any inspector or agent of the state board of health in the
7 proper discharge of his duties under this act, shall be guilty

8 of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be
9 fined not less than ten dollars nor more than one hundred
10 dollars, or shall be imprisoned in the county jail for not
11 less than ten days, nor more than ninety days, or both.

Sect. 9. The service of all notices provided for in this act
2 shall be made by the secretary of the state board of health
3 or by a hotel inspector, either by personal delivery, or by
4 registered letter to the owner, agent, or lessee of the build-
5 ing or buildings and premises, or to the proprietor or man-
6 ager, either one or both, of such hotels, inns or rooming
7 houses.

Sect. 10. All parts of chapter twenty-nine of the revised
2 statutes, which relate to innholders' and victualers' licenses,
3 and all other acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act
4 are hereby repealed.