

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 59

In Senate, Feb. 9, 1915.

Ordered, That five hundred copies be printed and that the same be referred to the Committee on Mercantile Affairs and Insurance.

Committee on Reference.

Presented by Mr. Herrick of Franklin.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT relating to protection of life in public buildings.

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

Section I. Section thirty-eight of chapter twenty-eight, 2 revised statutes, is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sect. 38. Every public house where guests are lodged, 4 and every building in which any trade, manufacture or business is carried on, requiring the presence of workmen above 5 the first story, and all rooms used for public assembly or 6 amusement, and all tenement houses three stories in height 7 where only one stairway or means of egress from the upper 8 stories of the building is provided, and all tenement houses 9 of four or more stories in height, intended to be occupied 10

11 by families, boarders or lodgers, above the third story, and
12 all buildings used for school purposes including school dor-
13 mitories two stories or more in height, shall at all times be
14 provided with proper egresses or other means of escape
15 from fire sufficient for the use of all persons accommodated,
16 assembled, employed, lodged or resident therein. In all
17 buildings of more than two stories, and in all buildings used
18 for school purposes including school dormitories of more
19 than one story, there shall be at least two egresses either
20 inside or outside and these shall be distinctly separate and
21 when possible on opposite sides of the building. These
22 egresses and means of escape shall be kept unobstructed, in
23 good repair and ready for use, the sufficiency thereof to be
24 determined as provided in the following section.'

Sect. 2. Section thirty-nine of chapter twenty-eight, re-
vised statutes, is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sect. 39. In towns or parts of towns having no organized
4 fire department, the municipal officers or fire inspectors shall
5 annually make careful inspection of the precautions and safe-
6 guards provided in compliance with the foregoing require-
7 ments, and pass upon their sufficiency as to arrangement and
8 number, and upon their state of repair; and direct such
9 alterations, additions and repairs as they adjudge necessary.
10 In towns, cities and villages having an organized fire de-
11 partment the duties aforesaid shall be discharged by the
12 chief of the fire department.'

Sect. 3. Section forty of chapter twenty-eight, revised 2 statutes, is hereby amended to read as follows:

‘Sect. 40. Such municipal officers, or fire inspector or chief 4 of the fire department shall give written notice to the occu- 5 pant of such building, also to the owner thereof, if known, 6 of their determination as to the sufficiency of said precau- 7 tions and safeguards, specifying in said notice any altera- 8 tion, addition or repair which they require. Sixty days are 9 allowed for compliance with such notice and order.’

Sect. 4. Section forty-two of chapter twenty-eight, re- 2 vised statutes, is hereby amended to read as follows:

‘Sect. 42. Wherever the municipal officers or fire inspector 4 or chief of fire department upon inspection find that proper 5 safeguard and precautions for escape in case of fire, or of 6 alarm, have been provided, they shall give to the occupant 7 of such building a certificate, under their hands, of such 8 fact; which shall be valid for one year only from its date; 9 and a reasonable compensation for such inspection shall be 10 paid by the city or town in which any such building is lo- 11 cated, by an order drawn upon its treasurer. Such officers 12 shall return to the clerk’s office of their town, monthly, a 13 list of such certificates by them issued, which the clerk shall 14 record in a suitable book.’

Sect. 5. Section forty-four of chapter twenty-eight, re- 2 vised statutes, is hereby amended to read as follows:

‘Sect. 44. Every municipal officer or fire inspector or chief 4 of fire department who refuses or neglects to perform the

5 duties imposed upon him by the preceding sections forfeits
6 fifty dollars.'