

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 105

In Senate, Feb. 16, 1915.

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

Committee on Reference.

Presented by Mr. Conant of Waldo.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to amend Section 1, Chapter 60, of the Revised Statutes as amended by the Public Laws of 1909, Chapter 98, relating to the appointment of the Commissioner of Agriculture.

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

Chapter 60, section 1, of the revised statutes as amended
2 by the public laws of 1909, chapter 98, is hereby amended
3 by striking out the second sentence thereof which reads:
4 "A commissioner of agriculture shall be elected biennially
5 by the legislature by joint ballot of the senators and repre-
6 sentatives in convention, and shall hold his office for the
7 term of two years and until his successor is elected and

8 qualified," and substituting therefor the following: 'A com-
9 mittee consisting of the master of the Maine State Grange,
10 the president of the Maine Pomological Society, the presi-
11 dent of the Maine Dairymen's Association, the president
12 of the Maine Seed Improvement Association, the president
13 of the Maine Livestock Breeders' Association, the dean of
14 the College of Agriculture of the University of Maine, and
15 the director of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station,
16 shall, prior to January 1, 1917, and thereafter whenever
17 a vacancy exists in the office of commissioner of agriculture,
18 select and present to the governor the name of a person in
19 their opinion qualified to fill the office of commissioner of
20 agriculture who shall in the month of January, 1917, and
21 thereafter whenever a vacancy exists be appointed by the
22 governor the commissioner of agriculture, and said com-
23 missioner shall hold his office for the term of six years and
24 until his successor is appointed and qualified.' So that the
25 whole section as amended shall read as follows:

'Section 1. A state department of agriculture shall be
27 maintained for the improvement of agriculture and the
28 advancement of the interests of husbandry. A committee
29 consisting of the master of the Maine State Grange, the
30 president of the Maine Pomological Society, the president
31 of the Maine Dairymen's Association, the president of the
32 Maine Seed Improvement Association, the president of the
33 Maine Livestock Breeders' Association, the dean of the
34 College of Agriculture of the University of Maine, and the

35 director of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station,
36 shall, prior to January 1, 1917, and thereafter whenever
37 a vacancy exists in the office of the commissioner of agri-
38 culture, select and present to the governor the name of a
39 person in their opinion qualified to fill the office of com-
40 missioner of agriculture who shall in the month of Jan-
41 uary, 1917, and thereafter, whenever a vacancy exists, be
42 appointed by the governor the commissioner of agriculture,
43 and said commissioner shall hold his office for the term of
44 six years and until his successor is appointed and qualified.
45 He shall give bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars to
46 the state, with sufficient sureties to be approved by the
47 treasurer of state, conditioned to faithfully account for all
48 moneys received and disbursed by him as said commissioner.
49 He shall by personal observation, investigation and corre-
50 spondence, acquaint himself with the methods and wants
51 of practical husbandry, the means of fertilization, and the
52 adaptation of various products to the soils and climate of
53 Maine; also with the progress of scientific and practical
54 agriculture elsewhere, with a view to the more complete
55 development of the natural resources of the state. The
56 commissioner of agriculture shall gather statistics of in-
57 formation concerning agriculture and publish the same an-
58 nually; he shall assist the farmers of the state, in so far as
59 is practical, to secure farm help, and to promote increased
60 production of farm crops through the selection, the grow-
61 ing and the dissemination of superior strains of seeds. An

62 appropriation of three thousand dollars annually shall be
63 made, to be expended by the commissioner of agriculture
64 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this sec-
65 tion and section five of chapter sixty of the revised stat-
66 utes, and for such other purposes and in such manner as
67 in his judgment will best promote the interests of agri-
68 culture in this state.'