

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 270

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*In Senate, March 4, 1915.*

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

*Committee on Reference.*

*Presented by Mr. Dunton of Penobscot.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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

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

Section 1. The state board of health shall use its influence  
2 so far as it can for the improvement and the maintenance  
3 of the health conditions of the various places in the state to  
4 which visitors resort, and of the hotels and other buildings  
5 which are used for the reception or entertainment of tran-  
6 sient or other guests. Under the supervision and the au-  
7 thority of the state board of health, hotels, inns, and room-  
8 ing houses shall be inspected as is provided in section seven  
9 of this act. The state board of health shall appoint an in-

10 spector 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 ac-  
13 cess to any hotel, inn, or rooming house at reasonable hours  
14 to determine whether the provisions of this act are being  
15 complied with. The secretary of the said board shall, by  
16 means of a complete set of books, of card catalog system,  
17 keep on record the conditions of each hotel, inn, and room-  
18 ing house inspected, as regards sanitation, number of sleep-  
19 ing rooms, number and condition of its fire escapes, together  
20 with the names of the owners, proprietors and managers  
21 thereof, and any other information for the betterment of  
22 the public service. He shall keep a true and accurate ac-  
23 count of all expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions  
24 of this act, together with a true and accurate statement of  
25 all fees collected from applicants for hotel, inn and rooming  
26 house licenses, and quarterly he shall file sworn and itemized  
27 statements of said expenses and fees with the state auditor.  
28 He 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 there-  
31 for.

Sect. 2. The provisions of this act shall apply to all build-  
2 ings used, maintained, or held out to the public as places  
3 where eating and sleeping accommodations or where sleep-  
4 ing accommodations alone are offered for pay to transient

5 or other guests, and in which ten or more rooms are in use  
6 or are available for the use of guests.

Sect. 3. Beginning on the first day of August, nineteen  
2 hundred and fifteen, and on the first day of each succeeding  
3 August, every individual or association of individuals, firm,  
4 or corporation, now engaged in the business of maintaining  
5 or conducting such business shall procure from the state  
6 board of health, for each hotel, inn, or rooming house, so  
7 conducted or proposed to be conducted, a hotelkeeper's, inn-  
8 keeper's, or rooming house keeper's license, as the case may  
9 be. Such license shall take the place of an innholder's li-  
10 cense as provided in chapter twenty-nine, section one of the  
11 revised statutes of Maine. Every such license shall be  
12 non-transferable, shall expire on the first day of August  
13 next following its issuance, and shall be revoked for the  
14 maintenance of the licensed premises in any way contrary  
15 to the provisions of this act, either by the licensee or his or  
16 its 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 here-  
19 in provided.

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

7 or rooming house containing fifty rooms or more shall pay  
8 an annual license fee of five dollars; and the license fee  
9 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 treas-  
14 ury shall constitute a permanent fund from which the sala-  
15 ries of the inspectors of the state board of health and the  
16 necessary and legitimate expenses incurred in carrying out  
17 the 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 and property to be used for  
9 such business, and stating the location of same, which  
10 application, upon its return to the state board of health, shall  
11 be accompanied by the license fee which is provided in sec-  
12 tion four. Upon receipt of the proper applications in writ-  
13 ing, together with legal license fees the state board of health  
14 shall issue the proper licenses to such applicants as shall  
15 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 in-  
7 fection in such places. The rules and regulations made by  
8 the state board of health under the provisions of this section  
9 shall not become valid until they have been approved by the  
10 governor and council and then published in the state paper.  
11 as is provided in section nine of chapter eighteen of the re-  
12 vised statutes.

Sect. 7. The state board of health shall, so far as it is pos-  
2 sible, have every hotel, inn, and rooming house inspected at  
3 least once each year, and shall, furthermore, make a note of  
4 all complaints which may be received about the conditions  
5 in or around any hotels, inns, or rooming houses, and shall,  
6 as far as practicable, investigate the grounds for such com-  
7 plaint; provided, that the work done by the state board of  
8 health and the inspectors of the said board shall not be more  
9 than that for which the expenses may be paid by the license  
10 fees provided in section five. Whenever, upon any inspec-  
11 tion it shall be found that, in any hotel, inn, or rooming  
12 house, the equipment and service are not cleanly, healthful,  
13 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 may  
17 require, of such changes as may be necessary to effect a  
18 complete compliance with the rules and regulations of the  
19 state board of health, setting forth in the notice the number  
20 or numbers of the section or sections of the rules and reg-  
21 ulations 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 the  
26 state board of health; provided, however, that whenever any  
27 structural changes are ordered a reasonable period of time,  
28 and in no case less than thirty days, shall be allowed for  
29 conforming with the requirements. Every individual or as-  
30 sociation of individuals, firm or corporation, failing or re-  
31 fusing to comply with the written orders of the state board  
32 of health given in accordance with the provisions of this act,  
33 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a  
34 fine of five dollars for each and every day of his refusal or  
35 failure to so comply.

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

7 meanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less  
8 than ten dollars nor more than one hundred dollars or shall  
9 be imprisoned in the county jail for not less than ten days,  
10 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.