

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

NEW DRAFT.

---

---

SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

---

---

SENATE

NO. 366

---

---

*In Senate, March 16, 1915.*

*Reported by Sen. Herrick from Committee on Mercantile  
Affairs and Insurance, and ordered printed under joint rules.*

*W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.*

---

---

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 1. 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  
5 business is carried on, requiring the presence of workmen  
6 above the first story, and all rooms used for public assem-  
7 bly or amusement, and all tenement houses three stories  
8 in height where only one stairway or means of egress from  
9 the upper stories of the building is provided, and all tene-  
10 ment houses of four or more stories in height, intended to

11 be occupied by families, boarders or lodgers, above the third  
12 story, and all buildings used for school purposes, including  
13 school dormitories, two stories or more in height, shall at  
14 all times be provided with proper egresses or other means  
15 of escape from fire sufficient for the use of all persons  
16 accommodated, assembled, employed, lodged or resident  
17 therein. These egresses and means of escape shall be kept  
18 unobstructed, in good repair and ready for use, the suffi-  
19 ciency thereof to be determined as provided in the follow-  
20 ing section.'

Sect. 2. Section thirty-nine of chapter twenty-eight, re-  
2 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 shall annually make  
5 or direct the fire inspector to make a careful inspection of  
6 the precautions and safeguards provided in compliance with  
7 the foregoing requirements, and pass upon their sufficiency  
8 as to arrangement and number, and upon their state of  
9 repair; and direct such alterations, additions and repairs  
10 as they adjudge necessary. In towns, cities and villages  
11 having an organized fire department the duties aforesaid  
12 shall be discharged by the 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 chief of the fire  
4 department shall give written notice to the occupant of such  
5 building, also to the owner thereof, if known, of their de-  
6 termination as to the sufficiency of said precautions and

7 safeguards, specifying in said notice any alteration, addi-  
8 tion or repair which they require. Sixty days are allowed  
9 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 chief of  
4 fire department upon inspection find that proper safeguard  
5 and precautions for escape in case of fire, or of alarm, have  
6 been provided, they shall give to the occupant of such build-  
7 ing a certificate under their hands, of such fact; which shall  
8 be valid for one year only from its date; and a reasonable  
9 compensation for such inspection shall be paid by the city  
10 or town in which any such building is located, by an order  
11 drawn upon its treasurer. Such officers shall return to the  
12 clerk's office of their town, monthly, a list of such certifi-  
13 cates by them issued, which the clerk shall record in a suit-  
14 able book.'

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

'Sect. 44. Every municipal officer or fire inspector or  
4 chief of fire department who refuses or neglects to perform  
5 the duties imposed upon him by the preceding sections for-  
6 feits fifty dollars.'