

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 53

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*House of Representatives, Jan. 31, 1917.*

*Tabled for printing under rules by Mr. Cushman of Auburn  
and five hundred copies ordered printed.*

*W. R. ROIX, Clerk.*

*Presented by Mr. Cushman of Auburn.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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AN ACT to prohibit the selling or giving away of air rifles  
to children under sixteen years of age.

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

Section 1. Whoever sells or gives away an air rifle to any  
2 child under the age of sixteen years shall be fined not less  
3 than five or more than twenty dollars, and shall be liable to  
4 all damages resulting from such sale, or giving away, to be  
5 recovered in an action on the case.

Sect. 2. Municipal courts and trial justices shall have  
2 jurisdiction of violations of the preceding section.

Sect. 3. This act shall take effect when approved.



## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Made in triplicate to accompany these three bills which are suggested by Dr. W. L. Haskell, of Lewiston.

The Doctor states that there has come under his observation in the Sisters Hospital in Lewiston during the last five years three cases of lockjaw in boys under 16 years of age, induced by wounds caused by discharge of blank cartridges.

He also attended a boy by the name of Stanley whose eye was injured by the discharge of a blank cartridge about two years ago. Eye now deformed.

About a month ago he attended a boy of 14 in Lewiston, who was accidentally shot with a revolver in the hands of a lad under 16. The wound was in the head and the boy died.

The Doctor has also known of injuries from air rifles, and regards them nearly as dangerous as the ordinary 22-calibre rifle.