

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)

SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 247

In Senate, Feb. 28, 1917.

Referred to Committee on Public Health and five hundred copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

Presented by Mr. Gordon of York.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Providing for the Formation of Combined Health
Districts.

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

Section 1. For the purpose of improving the health con-
2 ditions of their municipalities, a health officer may be em-
3 ployed by a city, by two or more contiguous or neighboring
4 cities combined into a health district, or by a combination of
5 a city or cities with surrounding towns, or of towns with
6 towns, provided, that, before there may be an entry into
7 such combined district, there shall be a vote of each town

8 at its regular town meeting or at a special meeting and a
9 vote of the city council of each city to do so. Provided
10 further, that the formation of a combined health district,
11 and the appointment of a health officer therefor, shall be
12 approved by the state board of health.

Sect. 2. In any combined health district there shall be a
2 board of health which shall consist of the mayor of each
3 city and the chairman of the board of selectmen of each
4 town included in such district, or of some other person ap-
5 pointed by the mayor or by the chairman of the board of
6 selectmen to represent them upon the board. If the num-
7 ber of members so provided for is an even number, the
8 existing members of the board shall choose an additional
9 member, to be known as the elective member, if the mem-
10 bers of the board can agree in such choice. If the mem-
11 bers of the board cannot agree in choosing the elective
12 member, such elective member may be appointed by the
13 State Board of Health. An elective member shall serve for
14 a term of two years from the first day of January preceding
15 his election and until his successor shall have been appointed,
16 provided, that, if at any time the number of members of the
17 board of health, excluding the elective member shall become
18 an odd number, the term of office of the elective member
19 shall thereupon cease.

Sect. 3. The board of health of any combined health dis-
2 trict shall, in effecting its organization, elect a president and
3 a treasurer from among its members who shall hold office

4 one year and until their successors have been chosen. The
5 health officer of a combined health district shall serve as the
6 secretary of the board of health thereof without additional
7 remuneration therefor.

Sect. 4. In each combined health district its board of
2 health shall appoint a health officer and may employ in-
3 spectors and visiting nurses as needed. The health officer
4 shall be a physician or other person who has had a special
5 training for the work he will have to do, and he shall re-
6 ceive a salary of not less than fifteen hundred dollars a year.

Sect. 5. Each board of health and each health officer of a
2 combined health district shall have all the rights, powers,
3 duties and obligations conferred and imposed by law upon
4 boards of health and health officers respectively. When any
5 combined health district is established as herein provided,
6 the boards of health of the cities or towns included within
7 such district shall thereupon cease to exist as boards of
8 health, and all their rights, powers, duties and obligations
9 shall thereupon be transferred to the board of health of such
10 district. When the board of health of any combined health
11 district shall have appointed a health officer therefor, the
12 terms of office of the health officers of the cities or towns
13 included in the health district shall cease, and all the rights,
14 powers, duties and obligations shall thereupon be transferred
15 to and imposed upon the health officer appointed for the
16 combined health district.

Sect. 6. The expenses incurred in the employment of the

2 health officer and of any permanent assistants to the health
3 officer which it may be found necessary to employ shall be
4 divided between the several municipalities forming the
5 health district in proportion to the assessed valuation of the
6 real and personal property of said municipalities as deter-
7 mined by the last preceding valuation of said municipalities;
8 but the expenses incurred for the temporary services of
9 nurses or other help which may be needed for the control
10 of infectious diseases or for other work which is localized
11 within a given municipality shall be paid by the municipality
12 in which and for which the work is done.

Sect. 7. The board of health of a combined health district
2 shall, from time to time, audit all bills, accounts, charges,
3 claims and demands against the combined health district for
4 the remuneration and expenses of the health officer, nurses,
5 and other assistants and for all other expenses incurred
6 by the said board of health or under its authority. After
7 auditing said bills, accounts and claims, the board shall
8 make an abstract to be known as the combined health dis-
9 trict abstract of the names of all persons who have pre-
10 sented to them bills or accounts to be audited, the amounts
11 claimed by each such person, and the amounts finally au-
12 dited and approved by them. The board of health of the
13 combined health district shall then divide the total amount
14 of the health district abstract as audited and approved as is
15 provided in Section 6 of this act, and shall deliver a cer-
16 tified copy of such abstract to the chairman of the board of

17 assessors of each such city and town with the statement of
18 the amount due from the real and personal property of each
19 town and city of the combined health district on account of
20 expenses of such board. The boards of assessors of each
21 such city and town shall levy a tax on the real and personal
22 property in their respective municipalities, sufficient to pro-
23 vide for the sums audited and approved by the board of
24 health of the district and chargeable to the real and personal
25 property of each town and city included within the com-
26 bined health district. Such sums, when collected and paid
27 to the treasurers of the cities and towns within the health
28 district, shall be paid by them to the treasurer of the board
29 of health of the district, and shall be disbursed by him in ac-
30 cordance with the abstract of claims audited and approved
31 by such board of health, as hereinabove provided.

Sect. 8. The board of health of any combined health dis-
2 trict may annually make an estimate of the expenses of such
3 board for the ensuing calendar year, and shall apportion the
4 total amount of such estimate in the same manner as is pro-
5 vided in Section 6 for apportioning the expenses of such dis-
6 trict, and shall deliver to the chairman of the board of
7 assessors of each city and town within the combined district
8 a certified statement of the total estimate of the amount due
9 from the real and personal property of each town or city
10 of the combined health district on account thereof. The
11 assessors for each city and town included in the health dis-
12 trict shall levy a tax upon the real and personal property

13 within their respective cities and towns sufficient to provide
14 for that portion of the amount of such estimate chargeable
15 to the real and personal property of their respective muni-
16 cipalities. Such sums, when collected and paid to their re-
17 spective city and town treasurers shall be paid by them to
18 the treasurer of the board of health of the combined district
19 and shall be disbursed by said board in accordance with the
20 estimate. After such estimate system has been adopted by a
21 combined health district, the board of health thereof shall
22 deduct from the estimate for the succeeding calendar year
23 the amount, if any remaining in the hands of such board
24 after all of the liabilities included on account of the preced-
25 ing estimate have been paid, before the certified statement
26 of the total estimate and the amount due of the real and
27 personal property of each town or city of the combined
28 health district is certified to each municipality for collection.