

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 360

In Senate, March 20, 1917.

Reported by Mr. Butler from Committee on Labor and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT for the safeguarding of Employes in Factories, Mills
and Workshops against Danger from Fire.

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

Section 1. Every factory, workshop, mill or place where
2 the manufacture of goods of any kind is carried on shall
3 hereafter, under the supervision and direction of the Com-
4 missioner of Labor, be provided with ample and proper
5 means and ways of egress or escape in emergency arising
6 from fire or otherwise, sufficient for the use of all persons
7 therein, and shall be protected as far as practicable against
8 the origin and spread of fire.

Sect. 2. The Commissioner of Labor as State Factory Inspector shall have power to order in all such buildings the construction of additional inside stairways and outside fire escapes of such construction and location as he may deem proper, and the alteration and repair of existing stairways and fire escapes; of doors and windows for egress, and their method of opening that suitable numbers of extinguishers be kept and maintained; that hose be kept on each floor attached to a suitable water supply and capable of reaching any part of said floor; that egresses shall at all times be unobstructed by anything whatever, whether stationary or movable; that outside or inside doors shall not be locked or fastened during the hours of labor so as to in any way obstruct or prevent a free and immediate exit from the inside, and any other construction, alteration, equipment, or requirement which in his judgment is necessary to furnish proper and adequate protection to the inmates of such buildings.

Sect. 3. If the Commissioner of Labor as State Factory Inspector, or any authorized agent of the Department of Labor, shall find upon inspection that in his opinion such buildings are not provided with ample and proper means and ways of egress or escape in emergency arising from fire or otherwise, he shall notify in writing the owner, proprietor, or agent of such workshops or factories to make, within thirty days, the alterations, or additions, or obtain equipment, or do anything by him deemed necessary for the safety and protection of the employes; and if such alterations or additions

11 are not made, equipment obtained, or other requirements
12 complied with, within thirty days from the date of such
13 written notice, or within such time as said alterations or ad-
14 ditions can be made, equipment obtained, or other require-
15 ments complied with, with proper diligence upon the part of
16 such proprietors, owners or agents, said proprietors, owners
17 or agents so notified shall be deemed guilty of a misde-
18 meanor, and upon complaint of the Commissioner of Labor
19 as State Factory Inspector, or any authorized agent of the
20 Department of Labor before a court of competent jurisdic-
21 tion, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in a sum not
22 less than twenty-five dollars, nor more than two hundred
23 dollars, or by imprisonment not more than thirty days, or by
24 both such fine and imprisonment.

Sect. 4. Nothing in this act shall be held to abrogate the
2 duty of municipal officers or board of fire engineers to make
3 inspection of such buildings as provided in Chapter thirty of
4 the Revised Statutes, sections thirty-seven to forty-six inclu-
5 sive, and acts amendatory thereof; but after inspection of
6 such buildings as designated in section one of this act, before
7 issuing their certificate, if they find proper safeguards and
8 precautions for escape from fire, or before issuing written
9 notice to the occupant or owner of alteration, additions or
10 repairs which they will require, if they find them improper,—
11 shall first submit to the Commissioner of Labor a descrip-
12 tion of the building inspected, stating size, and material of
13 which constructed; average number of employes on each

14 floor; and existing methods of escape from fire which they
15 deem adequate, in the one instance, and a similar description
16 of building, persons employed, existing methods of escape
17 from fire, and their recommendations as to alterations, ad-
18 ditions, or repairs, in the other; and obtain his approval of
19 same in writing before issuing said certificate or notice.
20 Such certificate or notice issued without such approval is
21 invalid.

Sect. 5. All fines or penalties provided for by the terms
2 of this act may be recovered or enforced by complaint or
3 indictment, and in all prosecutions under this act and amend-
4 ments and additions thereto, trial justices and judges of the
5 municipal and police courts within their counties shall have by
6 complaint original and concurrent jurisdiction with the su-
7 preme, judicial and superior courts.