

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 406

In Senate, March 24, 1917.

Reported by Mr. Garcelon from the Committee on Legal Affairs for the purpose of printing and five hundred copies ordered printed.

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Establish the Office of Reviser of Bills.

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

Section 1. The governor, with the advice and consent of the
2 council, shall appoint a citizen of the state trained in the law,
3 who shall not be eligible to membership in either branch of
4 the legislature during the incumbency in this office, to be
5 known as the Reviser of Bills, and to perform the duties
6 hereinafter prescribed, and whose term of office shall be for
7 two years from the first day of November unless previously
8 removed for cause; and any vacancy caused by death, resig-
9 nation or removal of the reviser of bills shall be filled for the
10 remainder of the term of office by the governor with the ad-
11 vice and consent of the council.

Sect. 2. It shall be the duty of the reviser of bills to examine, previous to their introduction, all bills and resolves presented to either branch of the legislature, making such correction as may be necessary in the text and references and titles in clear and concise language and consistency with existing statutes, and to avoid repetition and unconstitutional provisions. No bill or resolve, whether introduced by a member or a committee, shall be acted upon by either house until corrected and indorsed by the reviser of bills who shall, if the legislature be in session, make his correction upon bills and amendments within the time allowed by the rules of the senate and house of representatives. The reviser of bills shall give assistance to members and committees in drafting bills, resolves and amendments, if so requested. The reviser of bills shall not oppose or urge legislation; he shall not materially alter the substance of a bill or resolve; and no one connected with the office shall communicate the substance of any bill or resolve without permission of its introducer.

Sect. 3. The reviser of bills shall be required to be in attendance at his office from the first day of December next preceding the opening of the regular session of the legislature until the final adjournment of the session and at any other times the governor in his judgment deems necessary. Within thirty days after the general election the secretary of state shall forward to all senators and representatives elect a

8 sufficient number of blanks for the preparation of bills and
9 resolves, together with a notice in the following form:

To theElect of the..... of

You are hereby notified that the reviser of bills will be in
2 attendance at his office in the State House, on and after the
3 first day of December, and you are urged to prepare and
4 forward to him at once any bills which you desire to intro-
5 duce for enactment by the legislature.

.....

Secretary of State.

Provided, however, that nothing in this act shall be con-
2 strued as placing any limit upon the time allowed for the
3 introduction of bills by the rules which either branch of the
4 legislature may adopt.

Sect. 4. The reviser of bills shall be provided with suitable
2 offices at the State House. He shall with the advice and
3 consent of the governor employ such assistance and incur
4 such expense as may be necessary for the proper administra-
5 tion of the office. The secretary of state shall at the expense
6 of the state furnish upon the requisition of the reviser of bills
7 all necessary supplies for his office.

Sect. 5. The reviser of bills shall receive a salary of one
2 thousand dollars for his services during the regular session
3 of the legislature and the month immediately preceding the
4 opening of the session, and five dollars per day and necessary
5 expenses for actual time spent when called to his office by the
6 governor, and may employ at the expense of the state neces-
7 sary clerical and stenographic assistance.