

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 407

In Senate, March 24, 1917.

On motion by Mr. Lord of York report accepted and on further motion by same Senator tabled and five hundred copies of bill, together with report, ordered printed.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to provide for better telephone service.

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

Section 1. No public telephone company, or corporation
2 doing business wholly or in part within this state, shall main-
3 tain more than an eight party line, or have more than eight
4 instruments on a single line for rural or farmer's lines, and
5 not more than a five party line, for business telephone.

Section 2. All public telephone companies or corporations,
2 doing business wholly, or in part within this state, shall at
3 least once in each and every year, publish and distribute to
4 each of its patrons, a directory giving each subscribers name,
5 residence and the number of his call or phone, such directory

6 shall be not less than six by nine inches in size, with such
7 rules, regulations and general information, as is desired,
8 upon the front and back fly leaves, and to restrict all adver-
9 tisements to cover pages, and additional fly leaves, and to one
10 inch of space at top and bottom of all other papers, all ad-
11 vertising in the section reserved for the alphabetical list of
12 subscribers to be enclosed within a ruled border, which shall
13 appear on all pages in such section.

Sect. 3. All public telephone companies or corporations,
2 doing business wholly or in part within this state, neglecting
3 or refusing to comply with the two foregoing sections, on or
4 before July first, nineteen hundred seventeen, shall forfeit to
5 the state ten dollars for each and every day of such neglect
6 or refusal, and it shall be the duty of the Attorney General,
7 on written complaint of three or more subscribers of any
8 aforesaid company, to proceed at once to collect such fine by
9 an action for debt.

Sect. 4. All aforesaid telephone companies shall file a
2 schedule of rates and tolls of said line on or before July first,
3 nineteen hundred seventeen, with the Public Utilities Com-
4 mission, and they shall not be changed until after hearing
5 properly advertised and held before said Public Utilities
6 Commission.

The Committee on Telegraphs and Telephones to which was
referred the bill, entitled "An Act to Provide for Better Tele-
phone Service have had the same under consideration and ask
leave to report Legislation is inexpedient.

And your committee recommends that said Act be referred to the Public Utilities Commission with the request that it investigate and consider the rules, practices and regulations of the telephone companies within the state in relation to the several matters sought to be dealt with therein, and promulgate such rules and regulations governing the same as it shall find to be consistent with the public welfare, with the recommendation that it is desirable that not over twelve (12) telephones be on one line.