

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 124

House of Representatives, February 16, 1921.

Referred to Committee on State Lands and Forest Preservation, and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Roberts of Lyman.

STATE OF MAINE

**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE**

AN ACT to Amend Section Twenty-nine of Chapter Eight of the Revised Statutes, Providing for the Appointment of Deputy Forest Fire Wardens in Towns and Fixing Their Compensation.

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

Section twenty-nine of chapter eight of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence of said section and substituting in place thereof the following: "The selectmen of towns shall be forest fire wardens therein and may appoint one or more persons to act as deputy forest fire wardens. The services of such selectmen acting as said fire wardens shall be paid for at the

8 same rate as is paid for their other official services and the
9 services of said deputy forest fire wardens shall be paid
10 for at the rate hereinafter fixed for persons assisting in the
11 extinguishment of forest fires', and by inserting after the
12 word "wardens" in the fifth and twelfth lines of said sec-
13 tion the words 'or deputy wardens', and by striking out the
14 word "twenty" in the eighth line of said section and sub-
15 stituting in place thereof the word 'thirty' and by inserting
16 after the word "determine" in the eighth line of said sec-
17 tion the words 'and they shall be provided with subsistence
18 during said service', so that said section as amended shall
19 read as follows:

'Sect. 29. The selectmen of towns shall be forest fire
2 wardens therein and may appoint one or more persons to
3 act as deputy forest fire wardens. The services of such
4 selectmen acting as said fire wardens shall be paid for at
5 the same rate as is paid for their other official services and
6 the services of said deputy forest fire wardens shall be paid
7 for at the rate hereinafter fixed for persons assisting in the
8 extinguishment of forest fires. Whenever a fire is dis-
9 covered fire wardens or deputy wardens shall take such
10 measures as may be necessary for its control and extin-
11 guishment. For this purpose they may call upon any per-
12 sons in the town for assistance, and such persons shall re-
13 ceive such compensation, not exceeding thirty cents per hour,
14 as said selectmen may determine, and they shall be pro-
15 vided with subsistence during said service, the same to be

16 paid by the town; provided that no town shall be holden
17 to pay for extinguishing forest fires in any year an amount
18 greater than two per cent upon its valuation for purposes of
19 taxation. If any person so ordered to assist and not ex-
20 cused from said service by said forest fire wardens or
21 deputy forest fire wardens on account of sickness, disability,
22 or some important business or engagement, shall neglect to
23 comply with any such order he shall forfeit the sum of ten
24 dollars, to be recovered in action of debt in the name and
25 to the use of the town, by the treasurer thereof. If any
26 person shall suffer damage from fire in consequence of the
27 negligence or neglect of the selectmen of any town to per-
28 form the duties required by this section, such person shall
29 have an action on the case to recover from the town where
30 the fire occurs to the amount of his damages so sustained
31 not to exceed two per cent of the valuation of said town.
32 This section shall also apply to cities. The chief engineer
33 of the fire departments of cities shall be forest fire wardens
34 and shall have the same powers and duties in carrying out
35 the provisions hereof as selectmen of towns.'