

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE**

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**HOUSE**

**NO. 218**

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House of Representatives, March 3, 1921.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Crabtree of Island Falls.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

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

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AN ACT to Enable Cities and Towns to Recover from the  
Owner of Property the Expense of Putting Out a Fire Under  
Certain Conditions.

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

Section 1. That where a fire originates on the premises  
2 occupied by any person, firm or corporation as a result of  
3 his or its criminal intent, design or willful negligence, or  
4 where said person, firm or corporation has failed to comply  
5 with any law or ordinance of said cities or towns or any  
6 lawful regulation or requirement of any state or municipal  
7 authority enacted or made for the prevention of fire or the  
8 spreading thereof, such person, firm or corporation shall,

9 in addition to the present penalties for the punishment of  
10 persons convicted of arson or the payment of any fine or  
11 penalty for the violation of any law, ordinance or lawful  
12 regulation or requirement of any state or municipal author-  
13 ity enacted or made for the prevention of fire or the spread-  
14 ing thereof, be liable in a civil action to said cities or towns  
15 for the payment of all costs and expenses of the fire depart-  
16 ment of said cities or towns incurred in and about the use  
17 of employees, apparatus and materials in the extinguish-  
18 ment of or any attempt to extinguish any fire originating  
19 as aforesaid. The amount of such costs and expenses shall  
20 be determined by the executive officer of the fire depart-  
21 ment based upon the wages of the firemen and other officers  
22 for the time they were engaged in the extinguishment or  
23 the attempt to extinguish such fire; a reasonable amount  
24 as rental for the use of the apparatus of said city or town;  
25 and the cost of the water or other materials used in the ex-  
26 tinguishment or the attempt to extinguish such fire, with  
27 an additional amount of ten per centum on the total amount  
28 as aforesaid as supervisory or overhead charges, all of which  
29 shall be paid into the city or town treasury for the use of  
30 said cities or towns.

Sect. 2. For purposes of the enforcement of this act it  
2 shall be the duty of the executive officers of the fire depart-  
3 ments of said cities or towns to lay officially before the city  
4 prosecutors or town counsels of said cities or towns all evi-  
5 dence of violations of any of the provisions thereof.