

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 60

In Senate, February 17, 1921.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

L. ERNEST THORNTON, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Parent of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Promote the Efficiency of the Fire Department of
the City of Lewiston.

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

Section 1. The fire department of the city of Lewiston
2 shall hereafter be under the charge of one fire commissioner,
3 who shall receive an annual salary of twelve hundred dol-
4 lars.

Sect. 2. Said fire commissioner shall be appointed by
2 the mayor of said city without confirmation by the board
3 of aldermen. Said appointment shall be made within one
4 month after this act goes into effect. He shall hold his
5 office for a term of ten years and shall not be removed

6 from said office during said term except for cause. Pro-
7 ceedings for his removal shall be brought on petition of
8 a majority of the city council and shall be heard by a jus-
9 tice of the supreme judicial or superior court, before whom
10 such petition shall be returnable and whose decision upon
11 the question of removal shall be final.

Sect. 3. Said fire commissioner shall have the charge of
2 extinguishing fires in said city and the protection of life
3 and property in case of fire and shall have full control of
4 the buildings, the fire alarm telegraph system and all the
5 apparatus of the fire department. He shall have and exer-
6 cise all the powers and duties heretofore conferred upon the
7 fire commissioners of the city of Lewiston under chapter
8 fifty-one of the private and special laws of eighteen hun-
9 dred and ninety-one, which said act is hereby repealed.

Sect. 4. He shall have full power in the selection of a
2 chief engineer, superintendent of fire alarms and all other
3 officers and members of the fire department.

Sect. 5. Said chief engineer shall direct the work of the
2 members of the fire department in case of fire, act as the
3 executive officer of said fire commissioner and have author-
4 ity in case of fire to prevent persons not authorized by him
5 from coming within the lines that he may under such cir-
6 cumstances establish in the neighborhood of the buildings
7 or building in which a fire may have occurred.

Sect. 6. The fire commissioner shall appoint all members
2 of the fire department and may require a trial of not less
3 than six months in the case of permanent members unless

4 such appointee is at present a member or has served that
5 time in the department. Permanent members of the de-
6 partment shall not be removed by said commissioner unless
7 for inefficiency or other causes detrimental to the depart-
8 ment.

Sect. 7. Said fire commissioner shall have power to sum-
2 mon witnesses to attend and testify and to produce such
3 books and papers at any hearing before him concerning any
4 matter within his authority, and may administer oaths to
5 witnesses so summoned.

Sect. 8. The salaries of the chief engineer, assistant en-
2 gineers, superintendent of fire alarm and all other em-
3 ployees shall be fixed by the fire commissioner. Said em-
4 ployees shall, after the passage of this act, be entitled to and
5 receive such salaries as they now enjoy until the annual
6 salary resolve for the year nineteen hundred and twenty-two
7 shall have been passed by the city council.

Sect. 9. Said fire commissioner shall purchase all supplies
2 and apparatus for the department, provided, however, that
3 no apparatus shall be purchased by him without a vote of
4 the city council authorizing the same when the amount of
5 such a purchase would exceed the sum of one thousand dol-
6 lars.

Sect. 10. Said fire commissioner shall proceed to reorgan-
2 ize the department according to the spirit of this Act. He
3 shall be the sole judge of the number and qualifications of
4 its members and shall exclude political considerations in
5 all of his appointments. No member of the present depart-

6 ment shall be considered a permanent member until ap-
7 pointed by the fire commissioner. Said fire commissioner
8 is hereby given full power and authority to make such rules
9 and regulations for the government and efficiency of the
10 department as he may deem advisable and which shall be
11 consistent with the laws of the state and ordinances of the
12 city.

Sect. 11. Said fire commissioner shall file with the city
2 council annually an estimate of the amount of money re-
3 quired by him for the conduct of his department. He shall
4 approve all bills contracted by him and submit the same
5 to the city auditor before payment. He shall proceed to
6 make a schedule of all the apparatus, tools, materials and
7 property now in his department and shall record all addi-
8 tions thereto that shall from time to time be made, keeping
9 said inventory in a book which he shall provide for that
10 purpose.

Sect. 12. In case of vacancy in the office of fire commis-
2 sioner, caused by death, resignation, removal or otherwise,
3 the mayor of said city shall appoint a successor who shall
4 serve for a like term of ten years unless sooner removed for
5 cause.

Sect. 13. Pending the reorganization of said fire depart-
2 ment under the provisions of this Act, the department as
3 at present organized and constituted shall continue to op-
4 erate.

Sect. 14. All Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with this
2 Act are hereby repealed.