

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 83

In Senate, February 25, 1921.

Reported by Mr. Folsom from Committee on Public Utilities
and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

L. ERNEST THORNTON, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Amend Section Seventy-two of Chapter Fifty-six
of the Revised Statutes, Relating to the Ringing of the En-
gine Bell or Sounding of the Whistle at Grade Crossings.

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

Section seventy-two of chapter fifty-six of the revised stat-
2 utes is hereby amended by striking out after the word "whis-
3 tles" in the ninth line thereof the words "or in cities and vil-
4 lages such bell," and by substituting for the words "one hun-
5 dred" in the tenth line thereof the word 'eighty' and by add-
6 ing after the word "level" in the twelfth line thereof the
7 words 'unless the public utilities commission upon petition of
8 the corporation or of the municipal officers or of ten or more
9 legal voters of any city or town in which such crossing is

10 located, after notice and hearing, shall order the sounding
11 of such whistle to be discontinued in any city or village
12 until further order of the commission;’ and by substituting
13 for the words “eighty-five” in the fifteenth line thereof the
14 word ‘eighty’ so that said section as amended shall read as
15 follows:

‘Sign-boards to be maintained at grade crossings; bell on
2 engine and when to be rung; public utilities commission
3 may require whistle or sounding of bell for warning. Every
4 railroad corporation shall cause sign-boards with the words
5 “Railroad crossing” distinctly painted on each side thereof
6 in letters plainly legible, to be placed and constantly main-
7 tained at the side of highways and town ways where they
8 are crossed at grade by such railroads, on posts or other
9 structures, in such position as to be easily seen by persons
10 passing upon such ways; and every such corporation shall
11 cause a steam whistle, and a bell of at least thirty-five pounds
12 in weight to be placed upon each locomotive used upon its
13 railroad, and such whistles shall be sounded as a warning
14 at a distance of eighty rods on standard gauge railroads
15 and seventy-five rods on narrow gauge railroads from all
16 crossings on such ways on the same level, unless the public
17 utilities commission upon petition of the corporation or of
18 the municipal officers or of ten or more legal voters of any
19 city or town in which such crossing is located, after notice
20 and hearing, shall order the sounding of such whistle to
21 be discontinued in any city or village until further order

22 of the commission; and such bell shall be rung at a distance
23 of eighty rods on standard gauge railroads and sixty rods
24 on narrow gauge railroads, from such grade crossings, and
25 be kept ringing until the engine has passed the same; pro-
26 vided, however, that upon petition of ten or more legal
27 voters of the state, after notice to the railroad corporation
28 and a public hearing, the public utilities commission may in
29 writing order such corporation to give additional warning
30 to travellers upon such ways by requiring the sounding of
31 such whistles or the ringing of such bells at other places
32 where said railroads cross such public ways other than at
33 grade or run contiguous thereto, and such orders shall have
34 the same force, and place the same obligations upon rail-
35 road corporations as when required under the provisions of
36 this section.'