

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 95

In Senate, March 1, 1921.

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

L. ERNEST THORNTON, Secretary.

Presented by Mr. Farrington of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Creating a Board of Censors to Pass Upon Moving
Picture Films Offered for Public Exhibition in Maine.

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

Section 1. Within thirty days after this act shall have
2 become law the governor shall appoint a board of censors
3 to pass upon any and all moving picture films offered for
4 public exhibition in Maine.

Sect. 2. Said board shall consist of three members who
2 shall be appointed for terms of one, two and three years
3 respectively but on the expiration of such terms each ap-
4 pointee thereafter shall be appointed for three years. They
5 shall each receive as compensation for their services five

6 dollars for each day that they are occupied in their official
7 work and also shall be reimbursed for any expense incurred
8 by them in carrying on said work.

Sect. 3. They shall be provided with suitable accommo-
2 dations for office work at the state house and with neces-
3 sary clerical assistance.

Sect. 4. For the purpose of paying the salaries and ex-
2 penses of said board and the expenses incident to carrying
3 on its work the sum of five thousand dollars for the year
4 nineteen hundred and twenty-one and the sum of ten thou-
5 sand dollars for each of the years nineteen hundred and
6 twenty-two and nineteen hundred and twenty-three is here-
7 by appropriated.

Sect. 5. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corpo-
2 ration or association to use for public exhibition in Maine
3 any moving picture film unless the said film has been sub-
4 mitted to and approved by the said board or a majority of
5 the members thereof.

Sect. 6. The board shall approve the whole or any part
2 of such films as are not obscene, indecent, immoral, inhu-
3 man or such as do not tend to debase or corrupt morals or
4 incite to crime and may disapprove such films or parts there-
5 of as are obscene, indecent, immoral, inhuman or such as
6 tend to debase or corrupt morals or incite to crime.

Sect. 7. In case any owner or lessee of a motion picture
2 film, or the owner, manager or lessee of a motion picture
3 establishment is aggrieved by or dissatisfied with a decision

4 of the board under the provisions of this act, the board
5 shall within ten days of a written request therefor hold a
6 hearing in relation thereto, which may, in the discretion of
7 the board, be public or private. Within five days thereafter
8 it shall affirm, modify or revoke such decision. In case
9 the appellant is still aggrieved by the decision of the board
10 he may, within ten days after said decision, appeal to the
11 supreme court sitting in equity, by petition alleging that the
12 action of the board is unreasonable and not in conformity
13 with law, and if said allegations are sustained, any justice
14 of said court shall have power to revoke or modify such
15 decision; otherwise the same shall be confirmed.

Sect. 8. The board may require that all films approved
2 under the provisions of this act shall be appropriately
3 stamped and designated, and that before and in connection
4 with the public exhibition of the same there shall be shown
5 upon the screen a statement of such approval in such form
6 as the board may prescribe.

Sect. 9. Subject to the approval of the governor and coun-
2 cil, the board may make and enforce such rules and regu-
3 lations as it may deem necessary to enforce the provisions
4 of this act.

Sect. 10. A charge of one dollar shall be paid for the
2 inspection of each reel of film or each duplicate reel of
3 film not exceeding one thousand linear feet, and two dol-
4 lars for each reel of film or duplicate exceeding one thou-
5 sand linear feet. All money so received shall be paid into

6 the treasury of the state. A reel of film for purely edu-
7 cational, charitable or religious purposes may in the dis-
8 cretion of the board be approved without charge.

Sect. 11. It shall be the duty of the various prosecuting
2 officers of the state together with the various sheriffs and
3 deputy sheriffs to assist the said board in all legitimate ways
4 to enforce the provisions of this act.

Sect. 12. Any person, firm, corporation or association
2 violating any provisions of this act or any rule or regu-
3 lation adopted thereunder shall be punished by a fine not
4 exceeding fifty dollars for the first offense and one hundred
5 dollars for each succeeding offense.

Sect. 13. Each and every unlawful exhibition of a film
2 shall constitute a separate offense and such offenses may be
3 prosecuted by complaint or by indictment in the county in
4 which they occur.