

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 22

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In Senate, Jan. 26, 1923.

Reported by Mr. Phillips from Committee on State Lands and Forest Preservation, and ordered printed and recommitted to the Committee.

L. ERNEST THORNTON, Secretary.

Presented by Mr. Melcher of Rumford.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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AN ACT to Amend Section Seventy of Chapter Eight of the Revised Statutes as Amended by Chapter Eighty-three of the Public Laws of Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-one, Relating to Forest Fire Fighters in the Maine Forestry District.

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

Section seventy of section eight of the revised statutes  
2 as amended by chapter eighty-three of the public laws of  
3 nineteen hundred and twenty-one is hereby amended by  
4 inserting the words 'such sum as may be fixed by the for-  
5 est commissioner not exceeding' after the word "paid" in

6 the sixteenth line thereof, and by inserting after the word  
7 "service" in the eighteenth line thereof the following: 'If  
8 any person so ordered to assist and not excused from said  
9 service by said chief forest fire warden or deputy forest  
10 fire warden on account of sickness, disability, or other valid  
11 reason, shall neglect to comply with such order he shall  
12 be subject to a fine of ten dollars,' so that said section as  
13 amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 70. Whenever a fire occurs on, or is likely to do  
2 damage to forest lands within the district of any chief  
3 forest fire warden, he shall take immediate action to con-  
4 trol and extinguish the same. If such fire occurs upon  
5 or is likely to do damage to forest lands within the terri-  
6 tory of a deputy forest fire warden and the chief fire war-  
7 den of the district is not present, the deputy forest fire  
8 warden having jurisdiction of the territory shall forthwith  
9 proceed to control and extinguish the same, and he shall  
10 meanwhile, with all consistent dispatch, cause the said chief  
11 fire warden of the district to be notified of the occurrence  
12 of such fire. Until the arrival of the chief warden at the  
13 place of fire, the deputy warden shall be in charge of the  
14 control and extinguishment of the same. For the purpose  
15 of controlling and extinguishing fires, chief forest fire war-  
16 dens, and deputy forest fire wardens, when in charge of  
17 the control and extinguishment of forest fires or when so  
18 directed by the chief warden, may summon to their assist-  
19 ance any person found within the state and each person

20 so summoned and assisting shall be paid such sum as may  
21 be fixed by the forest commissioner not exceeding thirty  
22 cents for each hour service rendered by him and be pro-  
23 vided with subsistence during such service. If any per-  
24 son so ordered to assist and not excused from said service  
25 by said chief forest fire warden or deputy forest fire war-  
26 den on account of sickness, disability, or other valid rea-  
27 son, shall neglect to comply with such order he shall be  
28 subject to a fine of ten dollars. Immediately after the  
29 extinguishment of a fire, the deputy forest fire warden who  
30 for any time may have been in charge of the same, shall  
31 make return to the chief warden of the district of the ex-  
32 pense thereof during the period of his being in charge,  
33 including the names of the persons so summoned and as-  
34 sisting, with their post office addresses and the hours of  
35 labor actually performed by each under his direction. The  
36 return shall be made upon oath and the chief warden is  
37 hereby authorized and empowered to administer such oath.  
38 Upon receipt of such return, the chief fire warden shall  
39 carefully examine and audit the same, and he may direct  
40 the deputy to amend and correct any return found to be  
41 incomplete, incorrect, or insufficient in form. If upon ex-  
42 amination and auditing of said return, and investigation of  
43 the subject matter thereof, the chief fire warden believes  
44 said return to be just and correct, he shall endorse his  
45 written approval thereon and forward the same so approved  
46 to the forest commissioner. The chief fire warden of ev-

47 every district burned by a forest fire shall, upon the extin-  
48 guishment of such fire, promptly forward an exact and de-  
49 tailed statement of the expense, if any, which he may have  
50 incurred in connection with the extinguishment of such fire,  
51 to the forest commissioner, who may confirm, reject or  
52 recommit either or both the approved return of said deputy  
53 or the detailed statement of the chief fire warden if justice  
54 so requires.'