

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 24

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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. Curtis of Brewer.

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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 Twenty-nine of Chapter Eight of the Revised Statutes as Amended by Chapter Sixty-one of the Public Laws of Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-one, Providing for the Appointment of Forest Fire Wardens in Towns.

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

Section twenty-nine of chapter eight of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out all of said section 2 and substituting in place thereof the following:

‘Sect. 29. Outside of the Maine Forestry District, the 2 selectmen of towns, the assessors of plantations, and the

3 mayors of cities shall, subject to the approval of the forest  
4 commissioner, appoint annually one chief forest fire war-  
5 den and as many deputy forest fire wardens as in their  
6 judgment may be necessary to prevent, control, and ex-  
7 tinguish forest fires. In case such appointments are not  
8 made and approved prior to May 1 of each year, the for-  
9 est commissioner may appoint said chief forest fire war-  
10 dens and deputy forest fire wardens, and such appoint-  
11 ments shall have the same force and effect as if made by  
12 the selectmen, assessors, or mayor of the town, plantation,  
13 or city concerned. Chief forest fire wardens shall have  
14 general supervision of the forest fire protection work with-  
15 in their respective towns, plantations and cities, and of the  
16 deputy forest fire wardens therein. Chief forest fire war-  
17 dens shall receive as compensation four dollars for each  
18 and every day of actual service, with an allowance for actual  
19 necessary expenses of travel and subsistence. Deputy for-  
20 est fire wardens shall perform such duties as the chief  
21 forest fire wardens may prescribe and shall receive as com-  
22 pensation three dollars for each and every day of actual  
23 service, with an allowance for actual necessary expenses of  
24 travel and subsistence, except that when in charge of fire  
25 fighting operations they shall be paid at the rate of thirty-  
26 five cents for each hour of actual service and be provided  
27 with subsistence during such service.

‘Whenever a forest fire is discovered, chief forest fire  
2 wardens and deputy forest fire wardens shall at once take  
3 such measures as may be necessary for its control and ex-

4 tinguishment. For this purpose they may call upon any  
5 persons in the town for assistance, and such persons shall  
6 receive such compensation, not exceeding thirty cents for  
7 each hour of service rendered by them as the selectmen,  
8 assessors, or mayors may determine, and shall be provided  
9 with subsistence during such service, the same to be paid  
10 by the town, plantation, or city, provided that any expendi-  
11 ture for extinguishing forest fires in any calendar year in  
12 excess of one per cent of the assessed valuation of the  
13 town, plantation, or city shall be paid from the state con-  
14 tingent fund. If any person so ordered to assist and not  
15 excused from said service by the chief forest fire warden  
16 or deputy forest fire warden on account of sickness, dis-  
17 ability, or other valid reason, shall neglect to comply with  
18 such order he shall be subject to a fine of ten dollars.

‘If any chief forest fire warden or deputy forest fire war-  
2 den shall be negligent of his duties as prescribed in this  
3 section, he may be summarily removed by the forest com-  
4 missioner and shall be subject to a fine of fifty dollars for  
5 each and every offense. Further more, if any person shall  
6 suffer damage from fire in consequence of the negligence  
7 or neglect of the fire wardens of any town, plantation, or  
8 city to perform the duties required by this section, such  
9 person shall have an action on the case to recover from  
10 the town, plantation, or city where the fire occurs to the  
11 amount of his damages so sustained not to exceed two per  
12 cent of the assessed valuation of said town, plantation, or  
13 city.’