

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 296

In Senate, March 27, 1923.

Reported by Mr. Allen from Committee on Cole Report and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

L. ERNEST THORNTON, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Eaton of Oxford.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Encourage and Provide for a System of Uniform Accounting in Cities, Towns and Village Corporations.

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

Section 1. Any city, town or village corporation in the
2 state may petition the state auditor for an audit of its ac-
3 counts or for an installation of an accounting system, and
4 the auditor, as soon as possible after the receipt of such
5 petition shall cause such an audit to be made or system of
6 accounts to be installed. Any city, town or village cor-
7 poration at a meeting legally called therefor, after such
8 accounting system has been installed, may petition for sub-
9 sequent audits, or may by ordinance or resolution provide

10 for subsequent audits under the supervision of the state
11 auditor, who shall cause such audits to be made. The se-
12 lectmen or assessors may petition said auditor for an audit
13 of the town or village corporation accounts when in their
14 opinion, the condition of the accounts is such as to war-
15 rant the making of such audit, and said auditor, as soon
16 as possible after the receipt of such petition, shall cause
17 such audit to be made.

Sect. 2. Any city may, by vote of its city council, peti-
2 tion the auditor for an audit of its accounts or for the in-
3 stallation of an accounting system, and said auditor as soon
4 as possible after the receipt of such petition, shall cause
5 such audit to be made or accounting system installed.

Sect. 3. The accounting systems installed in accordance
2 with this chapter shall be such as will, in the judgment of
3 the auditor, be most effective in securing uniformity of
4 classification in the accounts of such cities, towns or vil-
5 lage corporations. The auditor may supply approximately
6 at cost to cities, towns and village corporations where such
7 accounting systems have been installed such books, forms
8 or other supplies as may be required from time to time
9 after the original installation of such system.

Sect. 4. Upon the completion of an audit under section
2 one or two of this act, the auditor shall render a report to
3 the municipal officers, embodying the results of his findings,
4 with such suggestions as he may deem advisable for the

5 proper administration of the city, town or village corpo-
6 ration.

Sect. 5. The expenses incurred under sections one to four
2 inclusive, shall be paid in the first instance by the state;
3 and the treasurer of state shall issue his warrant requiring
4 the assessors of the cities, towns and village corporations
5 concerned to assess a tax to the amount of said expense,
6 and such amounts shall be collected and paid to the treas-
7 urer of state in the same manner and subject to the same
8 penalties as state taxes. Any balance due shall be assessed
9 in the succeeding year in the same manner as other state
10 taxes.

Sect. 6. The state auditor shall annually furnish to the
2 auditor or other accounting officer of each city, town or
3 village corporation availing itself of the benefits of this act
4 schedules so arranged as to provide for uniform returns
5 giving detailed statements of all receipts classified by sources,
6 and all payments classified by objects, for its last fiscal
7 year; a statement of the public debt showing the purpose
8 for which each item of the debt was created and the pro-
9 vision made for the payment thereof; and a statement of
10 assets and liabilities at the close of the fiscal year. The
11 state auditor may in all cases where cities, towns and vil-
12 lage corporations may avail themselves of the benefits of
13 this act prescribe standard forms intended to promote the
14 systematic accounting of financial transactions and the pub-
15 lication of same in the report of the city, town or village

16 corporation. He shall collect from the proper local au-
17 thorities such other information pertaining to municipal
18 affairs as in his judgment may be of public interest.

Sect. 7. The state auditor shall inquire into the systems
2 of accounting of public funds in all cities, towns and vil-
3 lage corporations and it shall be the duty of all municipal
4 officers to furnish information relative thereto on such forms
5 as he may prescribe.

Sect. 8. The state auditor shall publish biennially statis-
2 tics relative to the financial affairs of cities, towns and vil-
3 lage corporations and other information of public interest
4 pertaining to municipal affairs, said part of his report to
5 be printed and distributed as a separate document, if he
6 believes it to be advisable.

Sect. 9. The state auditor shall employ necessary clerical
2 assistants and one or more examiners as may be necessary
3 to carry on the work provided for in this act.

Sect. 10. The state auditor may require the attendance
2 of witnesses and the production of books and documents
3 and may examine witnesses under oath in all matters aris-
4 ing under the provisions of this chapter.