

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

---

---

EIGHTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

---

---

S. P. No. 3

S. D. No. 2

---

---

In Senate, Jan. 14, 1925.

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

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Cram of Cumberland.

---

---

STATE OF MAINE

---

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

---

AN ACT to Amend Sections Thirty-one, Thirty-two and Thirty-three of Chapter Seven of the Revised Statutes of Nineteen Hundred and Sixteen, Relating to Elections and Providing Ballot Boxes with Devices for Registering and Endorsing Ballots Deposited Therein.

---

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

Section 1. Section thirty-one of chapter seven of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out section thirty-one and inserting in place thereof the following new section:

'Sect. 31. The secretary of state shall provide a state ballot box for use at every polling place in every city, town and plantation. State ballot boxes shall be of uniform de-

4 sign and shall be supplied at the expense of the state, each  
5 ballot box shall have sufficient locks and seal fastenings and  
6 shall contain mechanical devices for receiving, registering  
7 and endorsing every legal ballot deposited therein but no  
8 such ballot box shall record any distinguishing number or  
9 mark upon a ballot. Each ballot box shall be large enough  
10 to properly receive and hold all ballots which may lawfully  
11 be deposited therein at any election.'

Sect. 2. Section thirty-two of chapter seven of the re-  
2 vised statutes is hereby amended by striking out section  
3 thirty-two and inserting in place thereof the following new  
4 section:

'Sect. 32. State ballot boxes shall be used for receiving  
2 all official ballots cast at all state, city, town and plantation  
3 elections. The election officials at each polling place shall  
4 at the opening of the polls and before any ballots are re-  
5 ceived, publicly open the ballot receptacle and ascertain by  
6 personal and public examination that the same is empty,  
7 and shall immediately thereafter lock the state ballot box  
8 and record the condition of the ballot box register. The  
9 key to the ballot receptacle shall be delivered to the town,  
10 plantation, ward, district or precinct clerk, to be retained  
11 by him until the polls are closed. The ballot box shall not,  
12 after it has been shown to be empty and has been locked,  
13 be removed from public view nor opened nor any ballots  
14 removed therefrom until the polls are closed. At the close  
15 of the polls a record of the register shall be made which  
16 shall be returned with the previous record, to the city, town  
17 or plantation clerk.

Sect. 3. Section thirty-three of chapter seven of the re-  
2 vised statutes is hereby amended by striking out section  
3 thirty-three and inserting in place thereof the following new  
4 section:

‘Sect. 33. The presiding officer at every polling place shall  
2 have charge of the state ballot box, and shall at the close  
3 of each election return the state ballot box to the city, town  
4 or plantation clerk. The clerk of each city, town or plan-  
5 tation shall have the custody of the state ballot boxes and  
6 shall at the expense of the city and town provide for their  
7 safe keeping and for keeping them in good order and re-  
8 pair, subject to the supervision and control of the secretary  
9 of state. The ballot box mechanism shall be prepared for  
10 all elections by the city and town clerks and the key to this  
11 mechanism shall be retained by them during every election.  
12 When the city, town and plantation clerks have prepared  
13 the mechanism of each state ballot box for an election, they  
14 shall call upon the presiding officer of the opposite political  
15 party in his city or town, said presiding officer shall inspect  
16 the mechanism and see that each state ballot box is properly  
17 prepared. After the city and town clerk has locked the  
18 mechanism, the presiding officer shall officially seal the  
19 mechanism so that said sealing shall be visible to all voters  
20 at an election.

‘If a state ballot box becomes damaged or is lost or de-  
2 stroyed, the city, town or plantation clerk shall seasonably  
3 make written application to the secretary of state for an-  
4 other ballot box and the same shall be supplied at the ex-  
5 pense of the city, town or plantation.’