

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-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Senate Document

No. 188

S. P. 412

In Senate, March 8, 1927.

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

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Speirs of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Compel Legal Voters to Register and to Vote, at
Primary and Other Elections.

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

Section 1. Any citizen of this state, of the age of twenty-
2 one years or over, qualified by law to vote at state, district,
3 county, city, town or plantation elections, who fails to cause
4 himself or herself to be registered as a voter within one
5 year after being entitled to register, or after the passage
6 of this act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be
7 fined not less than three dollars nor more than ten dollars.

Sect. 2. Any registered voter who shall fail to vote at
2 any state, district, county, city, town or plantation primary,
3 or at any other election, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor,

4 and shall be fined not less than three dollars nor more than
5 ten dollars.

Sect. 3. A failure to register or to vote as required in
2 the two preceding sections shall be excused for illness, or
3 absence from the county wherein such voter is a resident,
4 or for any fault of the election officials; no person shall be
5 held to answer to any complaint under the provisions of
6 this act if he shall have filed with the clerk of the munici-
7 pality of which he is a resident a statement of his or her
8 intention not to vote at such election; any voter is entitled
9 to cast a blank ballot.

Sect. 4. The check list, or an attested copy of the same,
2 which was used in the polling places at such election shall
3 be prima facie evidence in the determination of the voters
4 who have actually voted at such election, and all those whose
5 names are not checked upon such list as having actually
6 voted, shall be deemed to have failed to vote.

Sect. 5. Said check list, or copies thereof, shall be de-
2 livered by the clerk of the municipality to the board of
3 assessors thereof not less than five days nor more than ten
4 days subsequent to such day of election.

Sect. 6. It shall be the duty of the chairman of the board
2 of assessors in each municipality shall, within thirty days
3 after each of said elections, enter complaint before the
4 court having jurisdiction, against all voters who have failed
5 to comply with the provisions of this act and shall receive
6 a fee of twenty-five cents for each complaint.

Sect. 7. The secretary of state shall furnish to each city,
2 town or plantation as many copies of this act as there were
3 ballots furnished the same municipality at the preceding
4 state election.

Sect. 8. The clerk of each city, town or plantation shall
2 mail or cause to be mailed, postage prepaid, at his or her
3 last known address as ascertained by such clerk, a copy of
4 this act to each resident of such municipality over the age
5 of twenty-one years, and at each subsequent election to
6 every new resident over the age of twenty-one years, but
7 this shall not be required of such clerks after the year nine-
8 teen hundred twenty-nine.

Sect. 9. The chairman of any board of assessors who
2 fails to enter the complaint as required under section sixth
3 hereof shall be deemed to be guilty of a misdemeanor and
4 fine not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one
5 hundred dollars; upon conviction, the sum of twenty-five
6 dollars shall be paid to the complainant.

Sect. 10. All fines and forfeitures provided under this
2 act shall be paid to the treasurer of the city, town or plan-
3 tation where the offense was committed, except as other-
4 wise herein provided.

Sect. 11. Municipal and police courts and trial justices
2 shall have jurisdiction over the offenses mentioned in this
3 act.