

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Senate Document

No. 159

S. P. 369

In Senate, Feb. 12, 1929.

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

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Spear of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Relative to Payments from State Appropriations.

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

Section eighty-four, chapter two, revised statutes, is here-
2 by amended by striking out the following words after the
3 word "legislature" in the twenty-seventh line thereof: "and
4 he shall not approve any bill or account against any appro-
5 priation unless said bill or account was incurred during the
6 time for which said appropriation was made"; and by in-
7 serting in place thereof the words, 'He shall not close any
8 appropriation account until thirty days after the end of the
9 fiscal year, and shall then close the account as of the last

10 day of the preceding fiscal year, and any bills or accounts
11 received by him after the close of said period of thirty days
12 shall be approved and certified for payment against the then
13 current appropriation for a like purpose'; so that as amend-
14 ed said section shall read as follows:

'Sect. 84. The auditor shall keep a distinct account of
2 all state receipts and expenditures under appropriate heads.
3 He shall keep a statement of all property belonging to the
4 state and of all debts and obligations due to and from the
5 state. He shall investigate all accounts, demands, bills,
6 vouchers or claims against the state, including those made
7 by any state officer, department, commission or trustee.
8 And if, after said investigation, the amount demanded
9 seems to be excessive or improper, he may reject the ac-
10 count or claim, in whole or in part, and if the person pre-
11 senting such account or claim is dissatisfied therewith, the
12 auditor shall report the same to the governor and council,
13 with a separate certificate therefor. He shall have free
14 access to all the books and papers of the several depart-
15 ments, commissions, boards, and institutions of the state.
16 Every officer, department, commission, institution and board
17 of trustees shall keep books of accounts in such form and
18 manner as the auditor shall direct, and they shall at all
19 times make such reports to the auditor as he may require.
20 He shall, from time to time, notify the said officers, heads
21 of departments, institutions, commissions and trustees, who
22 are entrusted with the expenditure of public moneys of the

23 state, of the condition of the specific appropriation which
24 they are entrusted to expend, showing the balance of such
25 appropriation unexpended. The auditor shall not approve
26 nor issue his certificate for the payment of any bill or ac-
27 count unless there is a specific appropriation or fund for
28 the payment thereof, or an expenditure is authorized by
29 law to be paid out of a contingent fund, or from moneys
30 in the treasury not otherwise appropriated; and whenever
31 any appropriation or fund is expended, all bills and ac-
32 counts presented to said auditor and drawn on said ex-
33 pended appropriation or fund shall not be approved by him,
34 but shall be reported by him to the next session of the
35 legislature. He shall not close any appropriation account
36 until thirty days after the end of the fiscal year, and shall
37 then close the account as of the last day of the preceding
38 fiscal year, and any bills or accounts received by him after
39 the close of said period of thirty days shall be approved
40 and certified for payment against the then current appro-
41 priation for a like purpose.'