

# 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-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

---

---

Legislative Document

No. 502

---

---

H. P. 981 House of Representatives, Feb. 11, 1931.

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

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Tompkins of Bridgewater.

---

---

STATE OF MAINE

---

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

---

AN ACT to License Public Dance Halls.

---

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

Section 1. Every person who keeps a public hall where public dances are held to which admission is obtained upon payment of money or any valuable thing, or in which after free admission, dancing is permitted upon a deposit of money in a coin-controlled apparatus, shall obtain a license from the municipal officers of the city or town where such hall is located and shall pay therefor such sum as said municipal officers may deem proper. Any person keeping such hall and permitting dancing therein without having procured such a license shall be punished by a fine of ten dollars for each day it is so kept.

Sec. 2. Municipal officers of any town may grant, upon such terms and provisions as they deem reasonable, a license for public halls to be used for the purposes of dancing, and the said municipal officers of said city or town may revoke or suspend such license at their pleasure, but they shall not grant a license for any such hall for dancing of any description to be held upon Sunday.

Sec. 3. The preceding sections of this act shall not apply to any hall within a public or private school building, nor to any hall within a building used primarily for religious purposes, nor to any hall in a parish house under the supervision

of a religious organization and regularly used in the furtherance of their religious work.

Sec. 4. No person shall darken in whole or in part the hall, room, piazza, roof garden or other place in which a public dance required to be licensed under sections 1 and 2 of this act, or any stairway, anteroom or passageway connected therewith, during the progress of a dance therein or until all persons except the proprietor and his employees have withdrawn from the premises. The degree of light required in such places shall be such as to render it possible to distinguish any person by every other person therein, at all times. Copies of this section shall be posted conspicuously in every such place. Violations of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1000.00).

Sec. 5. Whoever, having charge of a hall in which a public dance is in progress, permits a person under the influence of intoxicating liquor to be upon the premises during the progress of the dance, or whoever permits intoxicating liquor to be bought, sold, or given away upon such premises shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars and the license of that hall to permit public dancing therein shall be revoked.