

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)

NEW DRAFT

E I G H T Y - S I X T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 669

H. P. 1305

House of Representatives, Feb. 14, 1933.

Reported by Mr. Tompkins from Committee on Legal Affairs and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

New Draft of H. P. 259, L. D. 132.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to the Counting and Sealing of Ballots

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

R. S. c. 8, § 18, amended. Section 18 of chapter 8 of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter 34 of the public laws of 1931 is hereby amended to read as follows :

‘Sec. 18. Ballots, how counted. The ballots shall be sorted and counted in open town or ward meeting election officials duly sworn by town or city clerks who shall be considered public officials. Any person in the employ of any political party or its agents or in the employ of any candidate for election or his agent or in the employ of any corporation interested in any referendum within 6 months next prior to the election or referendum shall not serve as such election officer. The ballots counted by each election officer shall be made up into a secure package and each such package shall have plainly written or stamped thereon the name of the official counting the ballots in such package and each election officer shall sign and file a sworn statement of his count. The counting of ballots shall be done in such manner as to afford the electors present opportunity to observe the sorting and counting and the result shall be declared and recorded in open town or ward meeting. When the ballots have been so sorted and counted and the result so declared and recorded, all the ballots and sworn state-

ments of said officials shall in open meeting be sealed in a package, which said package with the checklists sealed in the same manner as the ballots shall forthwith be returned to the city, town, or plantation clerk. In case two or more kinds of official ballots are used in any election each kind shall be sealed in a separate package. All ballots and check-lists and sworn statements of said officials, shall be so sealed that the packages and check-lists cannot be opened or examined without first breaking the seal; and the sealed packages of ballots cast at any state election or at any election of the electors of president and vice-president of the United States shall have an endorsement of substantially the following tenor indorsed thereon or securely affixed thereon: "This package contains the ballots cast at an election for held in the of (or in ward of the city of) on the day of 19 : said ballots were sorted, counted, the result declared and recorded, and this package sealed in open meeting in accordance with section 18 of chapter 8 of the revised statutes." Such indorsement shall be signed by the town, plantation, or ward clerk and by a majority of the selectmen of towns and the assessors of plantations, or by the wardens in cities or voting precincts. The ballots and check-lists and sworn statements of said officials returned to the city clerk after any city election and all other ballots returned to him, which he is not required to forward to the secretary of state according to the provisions of section 47, shall be preserved by him as a public record for 6 months.'