

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 257

S. P. 176

In Senate, February 3, 1937.

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

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Willey of Cumberland by request of Hon. Charles Dennett of Sebago.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-SEVEN

AN ACT To Authorize Conferring Degrees of Honor by the State of Maine.

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

Sec. 1. Appointment. The governor shall appoint, subject to the approval of the council, a board of 7 selectors, at least 1 to be a woman, and all natives of the state of Maine.

Sec. 2. Filling of vacancies, removal of members, and duties. The board of selectors shall have the power to fill vacancies, or to remove a member for any just cause, by a majority vote of said board. The board shall have full power to select the person or persons upon whom the degree or degrees of honor are to be conferred.

Sec. 3. Personnel of the board. The chief justice of the supreme judicial court, or a member of the supreme judicial court, or a retired active justice of the supreme judicial court of the state of Maine, shall be chairman of the board of selectors. One member shall be chosen who is president, or a member of the faculty of a college, or a university of this state; one member a publisher of a Maine daily newspaper; one member shall

be a banker; the remaining three members must be persons of mature judgment and ability.

Sec. 4. Meeting of the board of selectors. The board shall meet at such time and place as the chairman shall select, or a majority of the selectors may call a meeting. There shall be at least one meeting each year.

Sec. 5. Persons eligible for the degree of honor. The degree shall be conferred only on persons born in the state of Maine, who have achieved distinction in some department of science, art, or philanthropy. The selectors shall have the right to tender the degree of honor to a citizen of the state of Maine who has, in the opinion of the board, attained merited distinction.

Sec. 6. Number of persons to be honored. Not more than 5 persons shall receive the degree of honor in any one year. The selectors, by unanimous vote, and with the approval of the governor and council, may add to the number, if for good and sufficient reasons it is deemed best.

Sec. 7. Citizens of the state may suggest a person for the degree of honor. Any person, a native of the state of Maine, can suggest to the board of selectors any person or persons whom they deem qualified to receive the degree of honor.

Sec. 8. People to receive the degree of honor. The board of selectors shall inform the governor, at least 2 weeks before the degree of honor is to be conferred, of the name or names of their selection, together with their qualifications.

Sec. 9. Time and place of conferring the degree of honor. The degree of honor shall be conferred during the 2nd or 3rd week of August, in the hall of the house at the state capitol in Augusta on the day appointed by the board of selectors.

By a majority vote, and with the approval of the governor and council of the state of Maine, and for adequate reasons, the place for conferring the degree may be temporarily changed.

Sec. 10. Conferring the degree. The governor of the state of Maine shall, if possible, confer the degree. If for any reason he is unavailable, then the chief justice of the supreme judicial court shall confer said degree.

In conferring the degree of honor the following form shall be used:

“You, John Smith, a native of the state of Maine, born in the Town of _____, have been elected by the Board of Selectors, to receive the Degree of Honor from the State of Maine.

This Degree is conferred upon you in recognition of your achievements in your chosen field of endeavor.

By your work you not only have achieved success and distinction for yourself, but have added to the glory of your native state.

I now present to you a Certificate of the Degree of Honor from the State of Maine. Upon this parchment is engraved the Seal of the State of Maine and your honored name. Signed and approved by His Excellency the Governor and the names of the Board of Selectors who have nominated you for this distinction. I now declare you to be an honored son —(or daughter) of the State of Maine.

Accompanying this Certificate, and in commemoration of this event, I give you this Emblem, inscribed with your name and date of this memorable event.

On behalf of the people of the State of Maine I extend to you their heartfelt greetings. By your conduct may you add and never detract from this Honor conferred upon you.”

Sec. 11. Financing. The sum of \$1,000 or such part thereof as may be sufficient, from the funds appropriated by the state of Maine to the Maine development commission, shall be used for all expenses of the board of selectors, and for the preparation of said degrees, and the presentation thereof.