

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 108

H. P. 390

House of Representatives, January 25, 1939.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Young of Old Orchard Beach.

S T A T E O F M A I N E

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to the Investigation of Fires by the Insurance Commissioner.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, the insurance commissioner is charged with certain statutory duties relative to the investigation of fires and the inspection of buildings; and

Whereas, the following changes in the statutes are necessary in order to provide funds for the carrying on of said duties; and

Whereas, in order that these necessary changes may be made in time to make the provisions of this act apply to taxes to be assessed as of April 1, 1939, it is necessary that this act become immediately effective; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section 16 of Article XXXI of the constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore

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

Section 55 of chapter 35 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 55. Insurance commissioner may incur expense for investigators and inspections. The insurance commissioner may incur such expense as may be necessary to carry out his duties in investigating or causing to be investigated the origin of fires and the inspection of buildings and property, ~~not to exceed three thousand one hundred dollars annually and all bills and expenses incurred shall be audited by the state auditor.~~ Every fire insurance company or association which does business or collects premiums or assessments in the state shall pay to the department of insurance on the first day of May, annually, in addition to the taxes now imposed by law to be paid by such companies or associations, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the gross direct premiums, less such credits as are allowed on the regular premium tax return for fire, sprinkler leakage, riot, civil commotion, explosion and motor vehicle fire risks of all such companies or associations done in the state during the preceding calendar year. Said funds shall be used solely to defray the expenses of such investigations and inspections and are hereby appropriated for such purposes.'

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.