

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 408**

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H. P. 763

House of Representatives, February 10, 1943.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Grua of Livermore Falls.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-THREE

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**AN ACT Relating to the Protection of Bees.**

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

**Sec. 1.** R. S., c. 43, amended. Section 18 of chapter 43 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed and the following sections enacted in place thereof:

**'Sec. 18. State apiarist.** The commissioner of agriculture shall appoint some person qualified by experience and knowledge in bee-keeping as inspector of apiaries, who shall be known as the state apiarist, and who shall serve during the pleasure of the commissioner.'

**'Sec. 18-A. Salary.** The state apiarist shall be employed on a per diem basis and shall receive not over \$6 per day and necessary traveling expenses while actually engaged in the performance of his duties.'

**'Sec. 18-B. Duties and authority.** The state apiarist shall make such inspection of the apiaries throughout the state as he may deem necessary to determine the presence therein of bee disease of an infectious or contagious nature, and shall have the authority to destroy all colonies of bees found so diseased together with the equipment and appliances, to quarantine such apiary, and to take such other action as may be necessary to suppress and eradicate all contagious and infectious bee diseases.'

'Sec. 18-C. Right to enter apiaries. The state apiarist shall have the authority to enter at all reasonable times upon the premises of any keeper of bees and make such examination of the bees, equipment and appliances found thereon as he may deem necessary to determine the presence of contagious or infectious diseases and to eradicate the same.'

'Sec. 18-D. Certificates. The state apiarist may within 60 days after examination thereof issue certificates that bees or bee equipment and appliances are apparently free from disease or contamination.'

'Sec. 18-E. Certifying imports. No bees or used bee equipment or appliances shall be shipped into the state without a certificate signed by a legally authorized inspector at the point of shipment that they are free from any contagious or infectious disease based on actual inspection made within 60 days of the date of such shipment.'

'Sec. 18-F. Public nuisance. All bees infected with the disease known as American Foulbrood, together with the equipment and appliances contaminated thereby are declared to be a public nuisance, and may be abated as provided in section 12 of chapter 26 of the revised statutes.'

'Sec. 18-G. Possession or sale of diseased bees or equipment. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly own or possess bees having any contagious or infectious disease, or bee equipment and appliances contaminated thereby, without a permit from the state apiarist. It shall be unlawful to sell, barter, or give away bees, equipment or appliances from any apiary which contains bees having an infectious or contagious disease without a certificate from the state apiarist when the owner or manager thereof knows, or has reason to suspect, the presence of such disease therein.'

'Sec. 18-H. Penalty. Any person violating the provisions of sections 18 to 18-G, inclusive, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10 and costs for each offense.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 43, § 19, amended. Section 19 of chapter 43 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 19. Bee owners to notify state apiarist of number of hives owned. All persons owning bees within the state shall notify the state ~~horticulturist~~ **apiarist** of the number of hives owned by them and their location. The information shall be made on blanks furnished by the state ~~horticulturist~~ **apiarist**.'