

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY - SECOND L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 5

H. P. 16

House of Representatives, January 11, 1945.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Payson of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-FIVE

AN ACT Providing for Combining the Office of Clerk of the Law Court and Reporter of Decisions.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 92, repealed and replaced. Chapter 92 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

‘**Sec. 1. Appointment.** The chief justice of the supreme judicial court shall appoint a person learned in the law to be reporter of decisions and clerk of the law court, who shall hold said offices during the pleasure of the chief justice.’

‘**Sec. 2. Duties.** As clerk of the law court he shall perform such duties as the chief justice of the supreme judicial court may direct. As reporter of decisions he shall, under the supervision and direction of the chief justice, prepare correct reports on all legal questions argued before and decided by the supreme judicial court, reporting cases more or less at large according to his judgment of their importance, together with suitable head notes, tables of cases, indexes and other material customarily included in the Maine Reports, and when he shall have sufficient material for a volume, he shall deliver the same prepared for printing to the state purchasing agent who shall contract for the printing, binding and delivery to the state

of a sufficient number of volumes to meet the needs of the state and for sale as hereinafter provided.'

'Sec. 3. Compensation. The reporter of decisions and clerk of the law court shall receive an annual salary of \$3,500 and such additional amounts for necessary expenses in connection with his duties as may be approved by the chief justice of the supreme judicial court.'

'Sec. 4. Printing of Reports. All printed copies of the Maine Reports shall be delivered by the printer to the state librarian for distribution in accordance with the provisions of section 18 of chapter 38, and for sale as hereinafter provided.'

'Sec. 5. Sale of Reports. The state librarian, subject to the approval of the governor and council, shall fix a price at which the Maine Reports, not required for distribution as hereinbefore provided, may be sold; and shall thereafter make sales to bookstores at the price so fixed.'

'Sec. 6. Advance sheets. The reporter of decisions may, under the direction of the chief justice of the supreme judicial court, prepare advance sheets of the Maine Reports which shall be printed in the same manner as hereinbefore provided for printing of the Maine Reports which shall be delivered by the printer to the state librarian who may, subject to the approval of the governor and council, enter into contract for the sale thereof. The librarian shall, without charge therefor, furnish the justices of the supreme judicial court and superior court, the attorney general and heads of departments requesting the same, with 1 copy each of all advance sheets so printed and shall also deliver without charge therefor 50 copies thereof to the reporter of decisions for exchange with reporters of other states.'

'Sec. 7. Disposition of proceeds. All proceeds from such sales shall be deposited to the credit of the general fund of the state.'

'Sec. 8. Copyright of reports. Each volume of the Maine Reports shall be entered by the secretary of state with the library of Congress, copyrighted in the name of the state of Maine, and the manuscript and copy thereof shall be the property of the state.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 91, § 12, repealed in part. The 1st sentence of section 12 of chapter 91 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed.