

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S E C O N D L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 364

S. P. 161

In Senate, February 1, 1945.

Referred to Committee on Salaries and Fees. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Sterling of Somerset.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Expense Accounts of Deputy Fire Wardens and Reports of Chief Fire Wardens.

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

R. S., c. 32, § 83, amended. Section 83 of chapter 32 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 83. Chief and deputy fire wardens to take immediate action to control fires; may summon assistance. Whenever a fire occurs on or is likely to do damage to forest lands within the district of any chief forest fire warden, he shall take immediate action to control and extinguish the same. If such fire occurs upon or is likely to do damage to forest lands within the territory of a deputy forest fire warden and the chief fire warden of the district is not present, the deputy forest fire warden having jurisdiction of the territory shall forthwith proceed to control and extinguish the same, and he shall meanwhile, with all consistent dispatch, cause the said chief fire warden of the district to be notified of the occurrence of such fire. Until the arrival of the chief warden at the place of fire, the deputy warden shall be in charge of the control and extinguishment of the same. For the purpose of controlling and extinguishing fires, chief forest fire wardens and deputy forest fire wardens, when in charge of the control and extinguishment of forest fires or when so directed by the chief

warden, may summon to their assistance any person found within the state and each person so summoned and assisting shall be paid at a rate set by the commissioner with the approval of the governor and council and be provided with subsistence during such service. Immediately after the extinguishment of a fire, the deputy forest fire warden, who for any time may have been in charge of the same, shall make return to the chief warden of the district of the expense thereof during the period of his being in charge, including the names of the persons so summoned and assisting, with their post office addresses and the hours of labor actually performed by each under his direction. The return shall be made upon oath and the chief warden is authorized and empowered to administer such oath. Upon receipt of such return, the chief fire warden shall carefully examine and audit the same, and he may direct the deputy to amend and correct any return found to be incomplete, incorrect, or insufficient in form. If upon examination and auditing of said return and investigation of the subject matter thereof, the chief fire warden believes said return to be just and correct, he shall indorse his written approval thereon and forward the same so approved to the commissioner. The chief fire warden of every district burned by a forest fire shall, upon the extinguishment of such fire, promptly forward an exact and detailed statement of the expense, if any, which he may have incurred in connection with the extinguishment of such fire, to the commissioner, who may confirm, reject, or recommit, either or both, the approved return of said deputy or the detailed statement of the chief fire warden, if justice so requires.'