

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 336

S. P. 141

In Senate, January 30, 1947

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

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Crosby of Franklin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Relating to Fire Wardens in Organized Towns.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 9, § 21, sub-§ XXVI, amended. Subsection XXVI of section 21 of chapter 9 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'XXVI. The term "municipal officers" means the mayor and aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns, ~~and~~ the assessors of plantations, **town managers and town agents.'**

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 32, § 68, amended. The 4th, 5th and 6th sentences of section 68 of chapter 32 of the revised statutes are hereby amended to read as follows:

'The commissioner shall cause to be furnished to all the chief forest fire wardens **within the limits of the Maine forestry district** and to the municipal ~~officers~~ **forest fire wardens** of all towns and organized plantations of the state **outside of the Maine forestry district**, blank permits, signed by him, for the burning of brush or slash or for the burning of blueberry land and grass land adjacent to any forest growth. Any chief forest fire warden **within the limits of the Maine forestry district** or the municipal ~~officers~~

forest fire wardens of the town, in the county where the land is located, shall have full authority to countersign and grant such permits signed by the commissioner. The commissioner may, however, in any particular case called to his attention, overrule the decision of the chief forest fire warden **within the limits of the Maine forestry district** or the municipal ~~officers~~ **forest fire wardens**, and himself grant the permit asked for or forbid the granting of the same.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 85, § 56, amended. Section 56 of chapter 85 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'**Sec. 56. Inquiry to be made into origin of woodland fires.** Municipal ~~officers~~ **forest fire wardens** in towns shall proceed immediately to a strict inquiry into the cause and origin of fires within woodlands; and in all cases where such fires are found to have originated from the unlawful act of any person, to cause the offender to be prosecuted without delay.'

Sec. 4. R. S., c. 85, § 57, amended. Section 57 of chapter 85 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'**Sec. 57. Municipal forest fire wardens to make report of any forest fire.** The ~~selectmen~~ **municipal forest fire wardens** of towns in which a forest fire of ~~more than 1 acre in~~ any extent has occurred, within a month shall report to the forest commissioner the extent of area burned over to the best of their information, together with the probable amount of property destroyed, specifying the value of timber, as near as may be, and the amount of cord-wood, logs, bark, or other forest product, fencing, bridges, and buildings that have been burned. They shall also report the causes of these fires, if they can be ascertained, and the measures employed and found effective in checking their progress. Blanks for such reports shall be furnished by the forest commissioner at the expense of the state.'