

# 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

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Legislative Document

No. 927

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H. P. 1255

House of Representatives, February 14, 1947.

Transmitted by revisor of statutes pursuant to joint order

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Byron of Hollis.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-SEVEN

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AN ACT Relating to the Bee Industry.

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

**R. S., c. 27, §§ 146-156, repealed and replaced.** Sections 146 to 156, inclusive, of chapter 27 of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter 54 of the public laws of 1945, are hereby repealed and the following sections, to be numbered 146 to 154, enacted in place thereof:

**Sec. 146. Bee inspectors.** The commissioner shall employ one or more persons qualified by experience and knowledge in beekeeping as inspectors of apiaries, who shall serve during the pleasure of the commissioner.

**Sec. 147. Duties.** Bee inspectors shall make such inspection of the apiaries throughout the state as the commissioner may deem necessary to determine the presence therein of bee diseases of an infectious or contagious nature.

**Sec. 148. Right to enter apiaries.** Such inspectors shall have the authority to enter at all reasonable times upon any premises where bees, bee equipment or appliances may be kept and make such examination as he may deem necessary to determine the presence of any contagious or

infectious disease; and such inspector upon finding any contagious or infectious disease may cause such bees, equipment or appliances to be properly treated to make them free from such diseases, or may destroy or caused to be destroyed such bees, equipment or appliances, if in the opinion of the inspector such action is necessary.

Sec. 149. Certification. The commissioner shall within 60 days after examination thereof issue a certificate that such bees, equipment or appliances are apparently free from contagious or infectious disease. It shall be unlawful to sell, barter, or give away bees, used equipment or appliances without first obtaining a certificate of inspection from the state department of agriculture.

Sec. 150. 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. 151. Notification to commissioner. All persons owning bees within the state shall annually notify the commissioner of the keeping of bees and the location thereof. The information shall be made on blanks furnished by the commissioner.

Sec. 152. Penalty. Any person violating the provisions of sections 146 to 151, inclusive, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 and costs for each offense.

Sec. 153. No person to disturb bees upon the land of another; penalty. No person shall enter upon the land of another for the purpose of capturing, destroying, or interfering with a swarm of bees which is already established, or removing honey from same, except by the consent of the owner of such land. Whoever violates any of the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10, nor more than \$50, for each offense.

Sec. 154. Power of the commissioner. The commissioner is hereby vested with the power and authority to enact such rules and regulations which in his judgment will best serve to carry out the provisions of sections 146 to 153, inclusive.'