

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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Legislative Document

No. 501

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S. P. 308

In Senate, February 9, 1949.

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

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Leavitt of Cumberland.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-NINE

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AN ACT Relating to Compulsory Voting.

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

R. S., c. 3, §§ 50-55, additional. Chapter 3 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto 6 new sections to be numbered 50 to 55, inclusive, to read as follows:

**'Compulsory Voting**

Sec. 50. Duty to vote. At all elections, whether general or primary, it shall be the duty of every person, duly and legally qualified, to vote in the manner provided by law.

Sec. 51. Registration. Every citizen of the state, of the age of 21 years or over, qualified by law to vote in any general or primary election, who fails to cause himself or herself to be registered as a voter within 1 year after being entitled to register shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10.

Sec. 52. Failure to vote. All such qualified voters who fail to so vote shall, within 12 days after an election file with the town clerk a written statement setting forth the reason for their failure to vote. If such town clerk determines that good and sufficient reason has been stated, no fur-

ther action shall be taken. If he does not so determine or if such statement has not been filed, he may be requested to appear before such town clerk for instruction regarding the duty of a citizen in a free country to exercise his voting franchise.

Sec. 53. Penalty. All such qualified voters who fail to vote in 3 successive elections and who have either not filed a statement or an insufficient statement as provided in section 52 shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10 for each such failure to vote. The check list, or attested copies thereof, which were used in the polling place at such election shall be prima facie evidence as to whether or not such person voted. If the voter's name has not been checked thereon as having voted at such election the voter shall be deemed to have failed to do so. It shall be the duty of the municipal officers to enter complaint against all persons who have failed to comply with the provisions of this section.

Sec. 54. Fines inure to towns. All fines collected under the provisions of sections 50 to 53, inclusive, shall inure to the town where the offense was committed.

Sec. 55. Jurisdiction. Municipal courts and trial justices shall have jurisdiction over the offenses mentioned in sections 50 to 53, inclusive.'