

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No 1451

S. P. 652

In Senate, April 7, 1949

Reported by Senator Baker of Kennebec from the Committee on Legal Affairs and printed under Joint Rules No. 10.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

AN ACT Providing for a Standard of Electrical Installations.

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

R. S., c. 88, §§ 82-A - 82-J, additional. Chapter 88 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto 10 new sections to be numbered 82-A to 82-J, to read as follows:

'Electrical Installations

Sec. 82-A. Applications of provisions of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive. The provisions of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive, shall apply to all installations of electrical conductors, fittings, devices and fixtures, hereinafter referred to as "electrical equipment", made after the effective date of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive, within or on public and private buildings and premises, with the following general exceptions which are applicable to all provisions of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive:

I. Any person, firm or corporation under jurisdiction of the public utilities commission of this state or of the federal communications commission;

II. The electrical work and equipment employed in connection with the construction, installation, operation, repair or maintenance of any utility

by a utility corporation in rendering its authorized service, or in any way incidental thereto;

III. Any electrical equipment and work including construction, installation, operation, maintenance and repair in or about industrial or manufacturing plants;

IV. Also any electrical equipment and work, including construction, installation, operation, maintenance and repair in, on or about other properties, equipment or buildings, residential or of any other kind, owned or controlled by the operators of industrial or manufacturing plants, provided such work is done under the supervision of an electrical engineer in the employ of said operator;

V. The electrical work and equipment in mines, pipe line systems, ships, railway rolling stock or automotive equipment, or the operation of portable sound equipment;

VI. Any electrical installations or equipment involved in the manufacture, test or repair of electrical equipment in the manufacturer's plant;

VII. Installations in suitable laboratories of exposed electrical wiring for experimental purposes only.

As used in sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive, "reasonably safe to persons and property" as applied to electrical installations and electrical equipment, means reasonably safe to use in the service for which the installation or equipment is intended without unnecessary hazard to life, limb or property.

Sec. 82-B. Standards for the installations of electrical equipment. All installations of electrical equipment shall be reasonably safe to persons and property and in conformity with the applicable statutes of the state of Maine and all applicable ordinances, orders, rules and regulations of any city or town in the state, not in conflict herewith.

Conformity of installations of electrical equipment with applicable regulations set forth in the National Electrical Code, National Electrical Safety Code or electrical provisions of other safety codes, which have been approved by the American Standards Association, shall be prima facie evidence that such installations are reasonably safe to persons and property.

The insurance commissioner may authorize installations of special wiring for purposes of obtaining field experience under controlled conditions in territory where electrical inspection is provided.

Sec. 82-C. Standards for electrical equipment. All electrical equipment

installed or used shall be reasonably safe to persons and property and in conformity with the applicable statutes of this state.

Conformity of electrical equipment with applicable standards of Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., shall be prima facie evidence that such equipment is reasonably safe to persons and property.

The insurance commissioner may authorize installations of special wiring for purposes of obtaining field experience under controlled conditions in territory where electrical inspection is provided.

Sec. 82-D. Appointment of local electrical inspectors. The governing body of any city or any town, at a town meeting duly called therefor, may provide by resolution or ordinance for the inspection of electrical installations within the limits of such municipality and may appoint an electrical inspector who shall enforce the provisions of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive, and any applicable resolution or ordinance within his jurisdiction. Any city or town may join with one or more other cities or towns in paying for the services of said electrical inspector provided said cities or towns have duly authorized the appointment of such inspector. Said ordinance or resolution shall declare whether the electrical inspection in said town or city shall be applicable to all or any of the following:

- I. Original installations of electrical equipment;
- II. Alteration or addition to existing electrical equipment;
- III. All the territory of said town or city; or
- IV. Such section or sections of said town or city as may be described.

Sec. 82-E. Authority of electrical inspectors. The electrical inspector having jurisdiction shall have the right during reasonable hours to enter any building or premises in the discharge of his official duties, or for the purpose of making any inspection, reinspection or test of the electrical equipment contained therein or its installation. When any electrical equipment which is subject to the provisions of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive, is found by a duly authorized electrical inspector to be dangerous to persons or property because it is defective or defectively installed, the person, firm or corporation responsible for the electrical equipment or its installation shall be notified in writing and shall make any changes or repairs required to place such equipment in reasonably safe condition. In cases of emergency, where immediately necessary for safety to persons or property, the said electrical inspector having jurisdiction shall have the authority to immediately disconnect or cause the disconnection of any electrical equipment.

Sec. 82-F. Permits; local and state. In any city or town in the state which has provided by resolution or ordinance for electrical inspection in accordance with the provisions of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive, if said resolution or ordinance so provides, no electrical equipment shall be installed within or on any building, structure or premises, publicly or privately owned, nor shall any alteration or addition be made in any such existing equipment without first securing a permit therefor from the electrical inspector, except as follows:

I. Minor repair work, including the replacement of lamps, replacement of fuses, installation of additional outlets, replacement of existing switches, sockets and lamps, repairs to entrance service equipment, repairs or installation of radio and low voltage equipment.

Application for such permit shall be made in writing to the electrical inspector by the person, firm or corporation installing the work. The application shall be accompanied by a general description of the electrical work to be done. If the electrical inspector shall require it, plans, specifications and schedules, that may be necessary to determine whether the installation, as described, will be in conformity with the requirements of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive, shall be filed, and if the applicant has complied with all the provisions of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive, a permit for such installation shall be issued.

No major deviation may be made from the installation described in the permit without the written approval of the electrical inspector.

Sec. 82-G. Fees for permits. Any city or town in the state which has provided for electrical inspection in accordance with the provisions of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive, may establish license fees which shall be paid by the applicant for a permit, before the permit is issued.

Sec. 82-H. Inspection and certificates of approval. Upon the completion of any installation of electrical equipment which has been made under a permit, it shall be the duty of the person, firm or corporation making the installation to notify the electrical inspector having jurisdiction, who shall inspect the work within a reasonable time.

Where the inspector finds the installation to be in conformity with the provisions of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive, he shall issue to the person, firm or corporation making the installation a certificate of approval.

If, upon inspection, any installation is not found to be fully in conformity with the provisions of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive, and all applicable

local ordinances, rules and regulations, the electrical inspector making the inspection shall at once forward to the person, firm or corporation making the installation a written notice stating the defects which have been found to exist.

Sec. 82-I. Penalties. Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any of the provisions of sections 82-D to 82-J, inclusive, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$50 for each offense.

Sec. 82-J. Affect on by-laws or ordinances. No existing by-law or ordinance now in effect in any city or town in this state shall be in any way affected by the provisions of sections 82-A to 82-J, inclusive.'