

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 890

H. P. 1327

House of Representatives, February 22, 1951.

Referred to Committee on Towns and Counties, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Parker of Sebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Fire Protection Tax in Unorganized Territory.

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

R. S., c. 79, § 68, additional. Chapter 79 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section, to be numbered 68-C, to read as follows:

'Fire Protection For Buildings in Unorganized Territory

Sec. 68-C. Fire protection; petition; hearing; assessment of tax. A petition stating the necessity for fire protection for buildings may be addressed to the county commissioners before March 1st in any year by not less than 2% of the persons residing in any unorganized township.

Hearing shall be held in the unorganized township as the county commissioners may designate. Notice of the hearing to be held and the time and place thereof shall be by publication once a week for 2 consecutive weeks prior to the hearing in a newspaper published in the county where said hearing is to be held, and if no newspaper is published there, in a newspaper having statewide circulation.

After hearing pursuant to the petition filed, the commissioners shall determine if such fire protection is necessary and if they so decide, they are authorized and empowered to provide for such protection. Such protection, if provided, shall, in the discretion of the commissioners, be continued for 5 years without further hearing.

They shall also make an estimate of the amount needed for providing such protection for the year beginning the next April 1, which in no case shall exceed $\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the valuation thereof. They shall assess on each such township the amount so determined not later than April 1st of each year and lists containing the fire protection tax millage rate and the total amount of such tax assessed upon each unorganized township, according to the last state valuation, shall immediately be certified and transmitted by the county treasurer to the state tax assessor. They may expend so much of said assessment as they deem necessary for the purposes of this section within 2 years from the date of assessment. The state tax assessor shall determine the amount of tax due, in accordance with the provisions of section 74-A of chapter 14, and shall include such amounts in the statements referred to in section 77 of chapter 14. The state tax assessor shall collect such taxes and cause them to be remitted to the county treasurer in the same manner as provided for the county tax; provided, however, that the treasurer of state shall, when remitting to the county, remit the fire protection tax and county tax in separate amounts and designate the amount of the fire protection tax collected from each township. Collection of such fire protection taxes shall be enforced in the same manner provided for the enforcement of collection of county taxes, and interest collected shall be credited to the general fund of the state.'