

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 712**

H. P. 669

House of Representatives, February 12, 1953

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Gowell of Berwick

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-THREE

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**AN ACT Relating to Public Dances.**

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

**R. S., c. 88, § 53-A, repealed and replaced.** Section 53-A of chapter 88 of the revised statutes, as enacted by chapter 272 of the public laws of 1947, and amended, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

**'Sec. 53-A. Public dances; license; fee.** No public dances at which minors are admitted shall be held in any pavilion, hall or other building unless there shall be in attendance at all times an officer of the law and unless the premises be licensed as hereinafter provided. Any pavilion, hall or other building in which such public dances are held shall be structurally safe, shall be free from debris and free from inflammable or quickly combustible decorations or fixtures, shall have adequate lighting facilities, shall have safe and convenient entrances or exits and fire escapes, shall have in such pavilion, hall or other building separate toilets for men and women, shall have such emergency fire fighting equipment as the insurance commissioner may prescribe, and shall have outside such pavilion, hall or other building such facilities for parking vehicles as may be necessary to assure an unobstructed way to approaching fire apparatus. The insurance commissioner shall enforce the provisions of this section, and he is authorized and directed to promulgate and enforce rules and regulations to carry out the

provisions hereof; and the rules and regulations so promulgated, when approved by the governor and council, with or without a public hearing as the governor and council may determine and filed with the secretary of state, shall have the force of law insofar as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section.

Whoever desires to use any pavilion, hall or other building or parts thereof for dancing purposes, either habitually or occasionally, shall make application to the insurance commissioner for a license for dancing in such premises, which shall be described in the application. The commissioner shall cause the premises to be inspected, and if they comply with the provisions of this section and lawful regulations promulgated hereunder, the commissioner shall issue a license on payment of a fee of \$2. Such license may be revoked by the commissioner when evidence is presented that the building licensed for dancing is not conducted in a manner consistent with public safety. Provided, however, that when the applicant for a license is a social, fraternal, charitable, religious or educational organization which shall devote the proceeds of admission to the use of said organization, the insurance commissioner may waive payment of the license fee, but in all other respects the provisions of this section and lawful regulations promulgated hereunder shall be mandatory.

Any person aggrieved by a refusal to grant a license may ask for and shall receive a hearing before the commissioner. Findings of fact made by the commissioner at such hearing shall be final, but an appeal from the commissioner's rulings in matters of law may be taken within ten days by petition to a justice of the superior court, who may entertain the same in term time or vacation, order notice thereon as in equity, and after hearing the appeal, may affirm, modify or revoke the decision of the commissioner and remand the same to the commissioner for action in accordance with his decree.'