

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY - NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 950

H. P. 658

House of Representatives, February 25, 1959

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Rollins of Belfast.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to Inspection of Buildings and Premises.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 97, § 22, amended. Section 22 of chapter 97 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 37 of the public laws of 1957, is further amended to read as follows:

‘Sec. 22. Insurance Commissioner upon complaint may inspect buildings; combustible or other dangerous matter removed. The Insurance Commissioner, his deputy, the Director of State Fire Prevention, a supervising state fire inspector, or the a fire inspector upon the complaint of any person or whenever he or they shall deem it necessary may inspect or cause to be inspected all buildings and premises within their jurisdiction. Whenever any of said officers shall find **When it is found that any building or other structure which, for want of repairs, or by reason of age or dilapidated condition or from any other cause, is especially liable to fire, and which is so situated as to endanger other property or the safety of the public, and whenever such officer shall find in or around any building when combustible or explosive matter or inflammable or other conditions dangerous to the safety of such buildings, he a building, premises or the public is found, the Insurance Commissioner shall order the same to be removed or remedied, and such the order shall forthwith be complied with by the owner or occupant of such the premises or buildings in the time specified in the order. If such order is made by any fire inspector, such owner or occupant may within 24 hours appeal to the insurance commissioner, who shall within 10 days review such order and file his decision thereon, and his decision shall be final and shall be complied with**

~~within such time as may be fixed in said order or decision of the insurance commissioner~~ Every hospital, sanatorium, convalescent home, nursing home, rest home or other institution for the hospitalization or nursing care of human beings shall between sundown and sunrise maintain lighted exitways and all main exit doors shall be hung to swing outward.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 97, § 52, repealed and replaced. Section 52 of chapter 97 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Sec. 52. Provisions governing orders issued under certain sections. The following provisions apply to orders issued under sections 22, 49, 50 and 51:

I. Failure to comply. An owner or occupant who fails to comply with an order made under sections 22, 49, 50 and 51 within the time specified in the order shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50, plus \$5 per day for each day after the time set in the order for compliance, or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both.

II. Nuisance. A building in which a condition exists in violation of an order issued under sections 22, 49, 50 and 51 is a nuisance which may be abated by the Superior Court in equity.

III. Use prohibited. The official who issues an order under sections 22, 49, 50 and 51 may prohibit the use of the building until the order is observed. If the owner or occupant of the building uses or allows the building to be used in violation of the order he shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both.

IV. Other structures included. The provisions of this section which apply to buildings apply equally to other structures within the scope of sections 22, 49, 50 and 51.'