

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

## SIXTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

## STATE OF MAINE

1895.

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Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820,  
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PUBLIC LAWS  
OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE.

1895.

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**Chapter 101.**

An Act in relation to the Inspection of Buildings, so as to lessen the danger from fires.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :*

SECT. 1. In every town and city of more than two thousand inhabitants, the municipal officers shall annually in the month of April appoint an inspector of buildings, who shall be a man skilled in the construction of buildings. The municipal officers shall define the limits within which the inspector of buildings shall have jurisdiction, which shall include the thickly settled portion of each such city, and of each village in each such city or town.

Appointment of inspector of buildings.

—jurisdiction.

SECT. 2. It shall be his duty to inspect each new building during the process of construction, so far as may be necessary to see that all proper safeguards against the catching or spreading of fire are used, that the chimneys and flues are made safe, and that proper cut-offs are placed between the timbers in the walls and floorings where fire would be likely to spread; and may give such directions in writing to the owner or contractor as he deems necessary, concerning the construction of such building so as to render the same safe from the catching and spreading of fire.

Duty to inspect new buildings, in process of construction.

SECT. 3. It shall be his duty to inspect all buildings while in process of being repaired, and see that all reasonable safeguards are used against the catching and spreading of fire, and that the chimneys and flues are made safe; and he may give such directions in writing to the owner as he deems necessary concerning such repairs, as to render such building safe from the catching and spreading of fire.

—shall inspect buildings while being repaired.

SECT. 4. It shall be his duty at least once in three years, and oftener when required by the municipal officers, to inspect chimneys, flues, funnels, stoves, furnaces, boilers and boiler connections, and heating apparatus in all the buildings within his jurisdiction, in which fire is kept or used, to ascertain if the same are safe against fire. He may give such directions in writing as he may deem necessary to the owner of said building to make changes in the construction or situation of such chimneys, flues, funnels, stoves, furnaces, boilers, boiler connections and heating apparatus, so as to make the same as

—shall inspect chimneys, flues, funnels, etc., when required.

## CHAP. 101

aforsaid. And the municipal officers may require such inspection of any particular building at any time.

May enter any building, in discharge of duty.

SECT. 5. An inspector of buildings in the performance of his official duty may enter any building for the purposes of making the inspection required by this act.

Appeal may be taken to municipal officers.

SECT. 6. An appeal in writing may be taken from any order or direction of the inspector of buildings to the municipal officers, whose order thereon shall be final.

New building shall not be occupied, unless inspector certifies it is safe from fire.

SECT. 7. No new building shall be occupied until the inspector of buildings has given a certificate that the same has been built in accordance with the provisions of this act, and so as to be safe from fire; if the owner permits it to be so occupied without such certificate, he shall be liable to a fine of ten dollars for each week he permits such building to be so occupied, to be recovered by complaint or indictment.

—penalty.

Appeal may be taken to municipal officers, if inspector declines to give certificate.

In case the inspector of buildings should from any cause decline to give his certificate where the builder has in his own judgment complied with the provisions in this act, an appeal may be taken to the municipal officers and if on such an appeal, it shall be decided by them that the provisions of the act have been complied with, the owner of said building shall not be liable to a fine for want of the certificate of the inspector.

Penalty, if owner neglects or refuses to comply with orders of inspector.

SECT. 8. If the owner of any building neglects or refuses for more than thirty days to comply with any direction of the inspector of buildings given as aforesaid, concerning the repairs on any building, as provided in section three, or to make such changes in the construction or situation of chimneys, flues, funnels, stoves, furnaces, boilers and boiler connections, and heating apparatus, as may be required by such inspector of buildings, under the provisions of section four, or as may be confirmed by the municipal officers on appeal, he shall be liable to a fine of ten dollars for each week he so neglects or refuses, to be recovered by complaint or indictment.

Penalty, if owner refuses inspector admission to building.

SECT. 9. Any owner or occupant of a building, who refuses to permit an inspector of buildings to enter his buildings, or willfully obstructs him in the inspection of such building as required by this act, shall be liable to a fine of not less than one nor more than twenty dollars, to be recovered by complaint or indictment.

SECT. 10. Municipal courts and trial justices shall have jurisdiction of the offenses named in sections seven, eight and nine.

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Jurisdiction of municipal courts and trial justices.

SECT. 11. Towns and cities may make by-laws not inconsistent with this act, defining more particularly the duties of such inspector of buildings, and the rules and regulations by which he is to be governed.

Towns may make by-laws defining duties.

SECT. 12. Municipal officers shall determine the compensation or salary of the inspector of buildings.

—salary.

SECT. 13. This act shall take effect when approved.

Approved March 14, 1895.

### Chapter 102.

An Act to provide for the incorporation and control of Gas and Electric Companies, for lighting, heating, manufacturing and mechanical purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :*

SECT. 1. Corporations for the purpose of making, generating, selling, distributing and supplying gas or electricity, or both, for lighting, heating, manufacturing or mechanical purposes, in any city or town, or two or more adjoining cities or towns, within this state, or for either or any of such purposes, may be organized under the provisions of sections sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen and twenty of chapter forty-eight of the revised statutes of this state, and acts amendatory thereof and additional thereto, and all provisions of said chapter and acts are hereby made applicable to such corporations. But no corporation, organized hereunder, shall have authority, without special act of the legislature, to make, generate, sell, distribute or supply gas or electricity, or both, for any purpose, in or to any city or town, in or to which another company, person or firm are making, generating, selling, distributing or supplying, or are authorized to make, generate, sell, distribute or supply gas or electricity, or both, without the consent of such other company, person or firm.

Corporations for making, etc., gas or electricity, may be organized under ch. 48, R. S.

—shall not operate in any city or town where a company is already established, without act of legislature.

SECT. 2. The certificate provided by said section eighteen to be prepared and filed in the secretary of state's office, shall specify, in addition to the statements required by said

Certificate shall specify cities and towns where corporation