

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

SEVENTIETH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1901.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820,
February 18, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE.
1901.

Chapter 169.

An Act to Provide for Voting by Machines.

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

Commission to examine and approve voting and counting machines.

Section 1. The secretary of state, the attorney general and one member of the governor's council to be designated by the governor, shall, at such times, under such conditions, and after such public notice as they see fit to give, examine voting and counting machines and apparatus; and they shall certify their approval of such machines as, in their judgment, furnish convenient, simple and satisfactory means of voting and of ascertaining the true result thereof with facility and accuracy, special regard being had to preventing and detecting double voting; but no machine shall be approved which does not secure to the voter a degree of secrecy in voting equal to that afforded by the use of the official ballot as provided by law. No machine except such as is approved by said officers and used in accordance with this act shall be used in this state.

—machines which do not secure secrecy shall not be approved.

Cities and towns authorized to purchase and use machines.

Section 2. A city or town may, at a legal meeting held not less than ten days before any regular election, determine upon and purchase or accept for trial, and order the use of one or more voting and counting machines for the then ensuing election in said city or town and thereafter in case said machine or machines are purchased, at all elections in cities and at state and presidential elections in towns, until otherwise voted at a legal meeting, said machines shall be used for the purpose of voting for the officers to be elected at such elections and for taking the vote upon constitutional amendments and all other questions submitted to vote at such elections.

Bond shall be given to keep machines in good order.

Section 3. When voting and counting machines are approved and purchased, the persons of whom such machines are purchased shall give to the secretary of state a suitable bond with sufficient sureties, conditioned to keep each machine in good working order for five years at their own expense.

Regulations and instructions for use of voters shall be furnished.

Section 4. The secretary of state shall make regulations for the use of machines approved and before each state and presidential election shall furnish appropriate instructions for the voters in cities and towns where such machines are used and like appropriate instructions shall be furnished by clerks of cities before each city election.

Section 5. This act shall take effect when approved.

Approved March 6, 1901.