

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Acts and Resolves

As Passed by the

## Seventy-Eighth Legislature

OF THE

# STATE OF MAINE

1917

Including Acts and Resolves of the Special Session of the  
Seventy-Seventh Legislature held in 1916.

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Published by the Secretary of State, in accordance with the Resolves of the Legislature approved June 28, 1820, March 18, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

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THE LEWISTON JOURNAL CO.  
LEWISTON, MAINE  
1917

**PUBLIC LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

As Passed by the Seventy-Eighth Legislature

**1917**

[supplied from page 1 of volume]

## CHAP. 44

**Sec. 76. State superintendent authorized to expend \$4,000.** All schools of secondary grade receiving state aid shall be inspected under the direction of the state superintendent of public schools, and for this purpose he shall be authorized to expend not to exceed four thousand dollars annually, which sum shall be paid from the state appropriation for the support of high schools; and he shall determine what schools are included in the classification of section seventy-three, what schools maintain the courses of study, what schools are entitled to state aid and what schools maintain approved courses for the reception of tuition scholars.'

Approved March 15, 1917.

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## Chapter 44.

An Act to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Investigate any Proposed Changes in the Rates of any Public Utility, and to Suspend the same Pending Investigation.

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

**Sec. 1. Public utilities commission may hold public hearing to investigate proposed change of rates by public utility. May suspend rate pending hearing.** Whenever the public utilities commission receives notice of any change or changes proposed to be made in any schedule of rates filed with said commission under the provisions of law it shall have power at any time before the effective date of such change or changes, either upon complaint or upon its own motion, and after reasonable notice, to hold a public hearing and make investigation as to the propriety of such proposed change or changes. At any such hearing involving any change or changes as above specified the burden of proof to show that such change is reasonable shall be upon the public utility. After such hearing and investigation the commission may make such order with reference to any new rate, joint rate, fare, rental, toll, classification, charge, rule, regulation or form of contract or agreement proposed as would be proper in a proceeding initiated upon complaint or upon motion of the commission in any rate investigation.

Pending such investigation and order the commission may at any time within said period preceding the effective date of any such schedule, by filing with such schedule and delivering to the public utility affected thereby a statement of its reasons for said suspension, suspend the operation of such schedule or any part thereof, but not for a longer period than three months from the date of said order of suspension; provided however, that if said investigation cannot be concluded within said period of three months said commission may in its discretion extend the time of suspension for a further period of three months; and provided further that nothing in this section contained shall apply to any schedule filed with the commission and proposing any change or changes in any new rate, joint rate, fare, rental, toll, classification, charge, rule, regulation or form of contract or agreement affecting the transportation of freight.

**Sec. 2. Proposed change in freight rates.** Whenever the public utilities commission receives notice of any change or changes proposed to be made

**CHAP. 45**

in any schedule of new rates, joint rates, fares, rentals, tolls, classifications, charges, rules, regulations or forms of contract or agreement affecting the transportation of freight, and filed with said commission under the provisions of law, said commission shall have power at any time within thirty days after the effective date of such change or changes, either upon complaint or upon its own motion, and after reasonable notice, to hold a public hearing and make investigation as to the propriety of such proposed change or changes.

At any such hearing involving any change or changes as above specified the burden of proof to show that such change is reasonable shall be upon the common carrier. After such hearing and investigation the commission may make such order, within a period of not less than six months after the effective date of the schedule setting forth such change or changes with reference to any proposed new rate, joint rate, fare, rental, toll, classification, charge, rule, regulation or form of contract or agreement proposed as would be proper under existing law in a proceeding initiated upon complaint or upon motion of the commission in any rate investigation; and in cases involving an increase in an existing rate, joint rate, toll, fare, rental or charge affecting the transportation of freight, if the commission shall find that such increase is unreasonable it may, by proper order, determine and fix the maximum rate, joint rate, toll, fare, rental or charge which may thereafter be collected for the service rendered, and no rate, joint rate, toll, fare, rental or charge affecting the transportation of freight in excess thereof shall be filed within a period of one year after the making of such order; and the commission, by proper order, may require the common carrier which has filed any such increased rate, joint rate, toll, fare, rental or charge affecting the transportation of freight to refund, in such manner and under such conditions as may be prescribed by the commission, to all persons from whom charges have been collected by virtue of the schedules under investigation, any and all sums collected in excess of the rate, joint rate, toll, fare, rental or charge affecting the transportation of freight so determined and fixed by the commission as being the maximum rate, joint rate, toll, fare, rental or charge to be collected, and may require due report of the refund so made.

Approved March 16, 1917.

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## Chapter 45.

An Act to Amend Section Twenty-seven of Chapter Fifty-two of the Revised Statutes, Relating to Investment of Deposits by Savings Institutions.

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

**R. S., c. 52, § 27, relating to investments of deposits of savings banks, amended.** Amend section twenty-seven, chapter fifty-two of the revised statutes, sub-section first, paragraph "a," by adding after the word "Columbia" in the last line of said paragraph, the following: 'and in the bonds issued by any farm loan bank organized under authority of the United States government,' so that said paragraph as amended shall read as follows: