

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

## Eightieth Legislature

OF THE

## STATE OF MAINE

1921

Including Acts and Resolves of the Special Session held in 1920.

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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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PUBLIC LAWS  
OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE

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1920

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## CHAP. 266

shall deem necessary, an equal number of deputies to be appointed from each of the dominant political parties, who shall have the same powers and duties as the municipal officers or members of the board of registration, subject, however, to the supervision and control of the municipal officers and board of registration in the respective town or city. All municipal officers, boards of registration, deputies, assistants and clerks shall at the special registration session held under this act be governed in the performance of their duties by the provisions of chapter five of the revised statutes and acts additional thereto and amendatory thereof, except in so far as the same are modified, amended or superseded by this act. The compensation of such deputies, assistants and clerks employed as herein provided shall be fixed by the respective municipal officers or boards of registration, shall not exceed the compensation received by such municipal officers or members of boards of registration and shall be paid by the respective towns and cities.

**Sec. 3. Application of Act limited to September and November elections, 1920.** This act shall apply only to registration of voters preceding the state and national elections to be held respectively in September and November, one thousand nine hundred and twenty.

**Sec. 4. Emergency.** In view of the emergency expressed in the preamble herein this act shall take effect when approved.

Approved August 31, 1920.

## Chapter 266.

An Act to Increase the Number of Election Clerks for Each Polling Place.

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, by the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, proclaimed by the State Department of the United States on August twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and twenty, the number of voters in each polling precinct of the state is greatly increased, and as a consequence the number of election officials should be immediately increased, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and additional legislation is immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, now therefore

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 7, § 13; relating to appointment of clerks for polling places, amended.** Section thirteen of chapter seven of the revised statutes is hereby amended, by adding thereto the following words: 'Provided, however, the municipal officers of cities, towns and plantations may, on or before the eleventh day of September, nineteen hundred and

twenty, appoint two additional clerks for each polling place in cities, towns and plantations, and for each island ward of the city of Portland and for the island district of the town of Cumberland, who shall be sworn and shall assist the election officers in the several voting precincts of the state, and who shall serve until the next regular appointment of clerks for polling places as provided by law, and receive such compensation as is provided for clerks now serving,' so that said section, as amended, shall read as follows:

**'Sec. 13. Two additional clerks to be appointed for each polling place in cities, towns and plantations; compensation.** The municipal officers of cities, towns and plantations voting in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, shall biennially in the month of May appoint clerks for each polling place; and such municipal officers shall appoint as such clerk such persons as shall be recommended for such appointment by the several political party committees of the several cities, towns or plantations, representing the two political parties, which at the gubernatorial election next preceding such appointment, cast the greatest number of votes. For each polling place in cities and towns four clerks, and for each polling place in plantations, and for each island ward of the city of Portland, and for the island district of the town of Cumberland two clerks shall be appointed. Said clerks shall equally represent each of the political parties which cast the largest number of votes in the state election next preceding their appointment. Each of said clerks shall be sworn to the faithful performance of his duties, and shall hold office for two years from the date of his appointment, and until a successor is appointed, and qualified, or he vacates the office. Vacancies occurring in the office of election or ballot clerks, shall be forthwith filled by the municipal officers in towns and plantations and by the mayors of cities in manner hereinbefore provided. Such election clerks shall attend at the times and places designated for meetings in their respective wards, towns or plantations for the election of any national, state, county, city or ward officers, and for the determination of any question submitted to the qualified voters of any city by lawful authority, shall be present at and assist in the counting by the presiding election officer or officers of all votes cast in such meetings, and shall receive such reasonable compensation for each day's actual service as the municipal officers of their respective cities, towns and plantations may determine. And on the recommendation of the political party committee of any other party represented on the official ballot, said municipal officers shall appoint one such election clerk in each polling place, for such political party, who shall be qualified for the performance of his duties, in like manner as the clerks of the two before-mentioned parties, shall hold office for a like term, or for such part thereof as the

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party for which he is appointed maintain its right to be represented upon the official ballot, and who during said term shall have like rights and duties, with the before-mentioned clerks to be present at and assist in the counting of votes, and shall serve with or without compensation as the municipal officers in any case may deem advisable, vacancies occurring in case of said clerks to be filled as in case of other clerks herein mentioned. No person shall be eligible to the position of election clerk in any ward, town or plantation where he is a candidate to be voted for. Two of the clerks in each polling place, one from each political party, shall be detailed by the municipal officers to act as ballot clerks. The two ballot clerks thus detailed and appointed in each polling place shall have the charge of the ballots therein and shall furnish them to the voters in the manner hereinafter set forth. A duplicate list of the qualified voters in each ward, town or plantation shall be prepared for the use of the ballot clerks, and all the provisions of law relative to the preparation, furnishing and preservation of check lists shall apply to such duplicate lists. Provisions in the charter of any city for the election of two persons to assist the warden in receiving, sorting and counting the ballots are not affected by the provisions hereof; but persons so elected shall be deemed election clerks for that purpose; they shall equally represent the two political parties which at the state election next preceding cast the greatest number of votes. Provided, however, the municipal officers of cities, towns and plantations may, on or before the eleventh day of September, nineteen hundred and twenty, appoint two additional clerks for each polling place in cities, towns and plantations, and for each island ward of the city of Portland and for the island district of the town of Cumberland, who shall be sworn and shall assist the election officers in the several voting precincts of the state and who shall serve until the next regular appointment of clerks for polling places as provided by law, and receive such compensation as is provided for clerks now serving.'

**Sec. 2. Emergency.** In view of the emergency expressed in the preamble hereof this act shall take effect when approved.

Approved August 31, 1920.

## Chapter 267.

An Act to Prevent the Denial or Abridgment of the Right to Hold Office on Account of Sex.

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

**Right to vote or hold civil office not to be denied on account of sex.** No citizen of the United States having a right to vote in this state shall be denied the right to hold any civil office under this state or any subdivision thereof on account of sex.

Approved August 31, 1920.