

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# DOCUMENTS

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# THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1865.

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1865.

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# FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 27.

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The Joint Special Committee who were directed by the order of February 2, 1865, "to investigate in relation to credits of men already in the naval and marine service of the United States, unassigned to any town, (which credits are now being sold to fill the quotas of cities, towns and plantations in the State,) and to ascertain and report by what authority persons claim to have direction and control of the disposition of credits of such men, together with measures for the prevention of further proceeding of like nature," have had the same under consideration and ask leave to report, that

Under the pressure of their various legislative duties, the Committee have given the subject entrusted to them the most careful examination possible, and are satisfied that there have been serious abuses and wrong practiced somewhere. Whether the evil is within the power of a State legislature to remedy they are not prepared to say. But they are of the unanimous opinion that the subject demands a thorough and patient investigation, and if beyond State control, should be brought to the notice of the federal authorities, and efforts should be made to secure their interposition to put an end to it. The Committee therefore recommend the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry as provided in the accompanying Resolution, which they report ought to pass.

They also find that the interests of this State have suffered from the want of agents to obtain recruits on the credit of Maine, out-

side of her territory. Those who have heretofore had the benefit of credentials from this State, have been permitted to operate for their own profit and benefit, without regard to State interests. The Committee therefore recommend that provision be made for the appointment of agents to obtain recruits and credits for this State, in such States and territories and on board such ships and squadrons as under the regulations of the Federal Authorities may be open to State agents, and that appropriate penalties be attached to every sale of recruits obtained by such agents to be credited upon any quota. They accordingly submit the accompanying Bill.

JOSEPH A. SANBORN,  
S. H. TALBOT,  
A. D. MANSON,  
NATHAN WEBB,  
THOS. S. LANG,  
W. H. CHESLEY,  
B. M. ROBERTS,  
JOHN D. HOPKINS.

# STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE.

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AN ACT to provide for the appointment and defining the duties of state recruiting officers.

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

SECTION 1. The governor shall nominate, and with  
2 the consent of the council, appoint a suitable number  
3 of persons not exceeding ten in all, to act as state re-  
4 cruiting officers, in such states and territories in rebel-  
5 lion, or on board such ships and squadrons as under  
6 the regulations of the departments of war and of the  
7 navy may be open to recruiting agents in behalf of the  
8 state.

SECT. 2. Recruiting officers appointed as provided  
2 in the preceding section shall receive such compensa-  
3 tion as the governor and council may determine, at the  
4 time of appointment, but not exceeding at the rate of  
5 dollars a year ; and shall be required to obey

6 and comply with orders issued by the executive de-  
7 partment of the state, and shall be removed in case of  
8 neglect or refusal to so obey, or in case of misconduct.

SECT. 3. Any recruiting officer appointed under the  
2 provisions of this act, who shall sell to any state or  
3 town any recruits he may obtain, or shall in any way  
4 aid or assist in filling the quota of any state other than  
5 the State of Maine, or any town in this state, for each  
6 offence upon conviction or indictment, shall be punish-  
7 ed by fine of five hundred dollars and by imprisonment  
8 not exceeding one year.

SECT. 4. All credits and recruits obtained by the  
2 recruiting officers provided for in this act, shall be  
3 passed to the general credit of the state and shall in  
4 no case be distributed to the quotas of towns and dis-  
5 tricts, unless the persons recruited, without solicitation  
6 shall designate the particular locality to which they  
7 wish to be assigned.

SECT. 5. No state bounty shall be paid to recruits  
2 obtained without the state until the enlistment is duly  
3 credited to the State of Maine by the United States  
4 authorities, and then only to such amount as by the  
5 laws of the state existing at the time, is provided to  
6 be paid to men enlisting within the state.

SECT. 6. The governor and council shall establish

2 such forms of agreement for the payment of state  
3 bounty to be delivered to recruits by recruiting officers  
4 as shall fully protect the interests of the state and of  
5 the recruit.

## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE for the appointment of commissioners to investigate the subject of military, naval and marine credits.

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*Resolved,* That honorable George F. Talbot, honorable  
2 Charles W. Goddard, and Silas C. Hatch, esquire, be  
3 a commission, with full powers to send for persons and  
4 papers, administer oaths and fill vacancies that may  
5 occur, whose duty shall be to make full investigation  
6 of the manner in which persons enlisting into the mili-  
7 tary, naval and marine service of the United States  
8 have been credited to the quotas of states and of towns  
9 or districts within this state; and also to inquire by  
10 what right and under what proceedings private per-  
11 sons have been permitted to control the assignment of  
12 credits, and whether such private persons have prac-  
13 tised frauds in the matter of assignments upon the  
14 United States, this state, or the enlisted men; the  
15 said commission to have power to sit at any time prior  
16 to January first, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and  
17 to proceed to Washington, or such other place or



18 places, as the proper discharge of their duties shall  
19 seem to demand, and shall make full report to the leg-  
20 islature in January, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty-  
21 six, and their compensation to be such reasonable sum  
22 in addition to expenses, as the governor and council  
23 shall determine.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 22, 1865.

Read and accepted, and on motion of Mr. SANBORN of Kennebec, laid on the table and 350 copies of the same, with the bill and resolve accompanying, ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary.*