

**CONSTABLES OF TOWNSHIPS MADE EX-OFFICIO FIRE WARDENS**

**Act of Mar. 30, 1897, P.L. 9, No. 7**

**Cl. 32**

AN ACT

Making constables of townships ex-officio fire wardens for the extinction of forest fires, and for reporting to the court of quarter sessions violations of the laws for the protection of forests from fire, prescribing the duties of such fire wardens and their punishment for failure to perform the same, and empowering them to require, under penalty, the assistance of other persons in the extinction of such fires.

Section 3. Wardens to report to quarter sessions; penalty for failure to report

The fire wardens of each township throughout the Commonwealth shall, in the first week of each term of the court of quarter sessions of their respective counties, make returns to said court, under oath or affirmation, of all violations occurring within their respective townships which may come or be brought to their notice of any of the provisions of any law now enacted, or hereafter to be enacted for the purpose of protecting forests from fire, and it shall be the special duty of the judge of said court to see these returns are faithfully made; and on failure of any fire warden to comply with this provision, or if it be found upon examination or inquiry by said court that any fire warden has either wilfully or negligently omitted to report all such violation occurring within his township, or having failed to perform his duty as set forth in section one of this act, such fire warden or constable shall be deemed guilty of wilfully or negligently making a false return, or neglect of duty, and the court shall suspend him from office and direct the district attorney to indict and try him, and, if found guilty, he shall be fined in a sum not exceeding fifty dollars, and undergo an imprisonment not exceeding three months, both or either, at the discretion of the court. 1897, March 30, P.L. 9, Sec. 3.

Section 4. Definition of "forest"

The term forest herein used shall not, for the purposes of this bill, be held to include an area of timber land or brush land of less than fifty acres in extent, unless such said area shall by proximity to other timber land be liable to convey fire to an area of brush land or timber land containing at least fifty acres. 1897, March 30, P.L. 9, Sec. 4.