

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

FIFTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1872.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820,
February 26, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

AUGUSTA:

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1872.

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE.
1872.

Chapter 62.

An act relating to the duties of sheriffs and county attorneys.

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

SECT. 1. It shall be the duty of sheriffs to obey all such orders and directions relating to the enforcement and execution of the laws of the state, as they shall from time to time receive from the governor.

Duty of sheriffs to obey the orders and directions of the governor relating to the enforcement of the laws of the state.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of sheriffs and their deputies, diligently and faithfully to inquire into all violations of the laws of the state, within their respective counties, and to institute legal proceedings against violations or supposed violations of law, and particularly the laws against the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors, and the keeping of drinking houses and tippling shops, gambling houses or places, and houses of ill fame, either by promptly entering a complaint before a magistrate competent to examine or try the offence charged, and execute such warrants as may be issued on such complaints, or by furnishing the county attorney promptly and without delay, with the names of alleged offenders, and of the witnesses. For services under the provisions of this law, sheriffs and their deputies, acting under their directions, shall be entitled to the same per diem compensation, as for attendance on the supreme judicial court, and the same fees for travel as for the service of warrants in criminal cases, together with such necessary incidental expenses as may be just and proper; bills for which shall be audited by the county commissioners, and paid from the county treasury.

Duty of sheriffs and their deputies in relation to the violation of the laws, especially those against the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors and the keeping of gambling places, and houses of ill fame.

SECT. 3. County attorneys shall cause to be summoned promptly before the grand jury of their several counties, all witnesses whose names have been furnished them by any sheriff or his deputies, as provided in section two of this act, and shall faithfully direct inquiries before that body into violations of law, and shall prosecute persons indicted, and secure the prompt sentence of such as shall be convicted.

Duty of county attorneys.

SECT. 4. Whenever the governor shall, after investigation, be satisfied that any sheriff or county attorney has wilfully refused or neglected to discharge the duties imposed upon each by this act, it shall be his duty to bring such fact to the attention of the legislature at the earliest practical day.

The governor to report delinquent sheriffs to the legislature.

Approved February 29, 1872.