

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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THE  
REVISED STATUTES

OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE,

PASSED JANUARY 25, 1871;

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED  
THE CONSTITUTIONS

OF THE  
UNITED STATES AND OF THE STATE OF MAINE:

WITH AN APPENDIX.

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BY AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE.



PORTLAND:  
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## CHAP. 52.

## CHAPTER 52.

## CORPORATIONS FOR NAVIGATION BY STEAM. COMMON CARRIERS.

- SEC. 1. Officers to be stockholders, treasurer's office within the state.
2. Liability for neglect and misconduct.
3. Debts not to exceed half amount of capital.
4. Treasurer to publish amount of capital and of debts, in January annually.  
How to be published. Penalty for neglect or publishing false statement.
5. If debts exceed half amount of capital, stockholders liable.
6. Boats liable for loss or damage of property transported in them, and may be attached and sold.
7. Certain sections of chapter fifty-one applicable to steamboats, stage coaches, and common carriers.

Officers to be stockholders. Treasurer's office within the state.

R. S. c. 52, § 1.  
Liable for neglect and misconduct.

R. S. c. 52, § 2.

Debts not to exceed half of capital.

R. S. c. 52, § 3.

Treasurer to publish annually a statement of capital and debts; penalty.

R. S. c. 52, § 4.

If debts exceed half of capital, stockholders liable.

R. S. c. 52, § 5.

SEC. 1. Corporations, created for navigation by steam, are to have officers who are and continue to be stockholders, and to have a treasurer, who keeps an office within the state.

SEC. 2. They are liable for the breach of contracts, express or implied, made as common carriers; for their neglect and misconduct; and for that of their agents, to the same extent as owners of vessels are by the maritime law.

SEC. 3. They are prohibited from contracting debts and incurring liabilities exceeding at any one time half the amount of their existing capital, estimated at its then actual value.

SEC. 4. Their treasurer is to publish annually in the month of January, in a newspaper printed in the county where his office is kept, if any, otherwise in the state paper, a statement, under oath, of the amount of assessments actually paid in; the amount of its then existing capital; the amount of debts and liquidated liabilities against it. For neglecting to do it, he is liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or to imprisonment not exceeding six months. For such neglect, or knowingly publishing a false statement with intent to injure a present or future creditor, he is to be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment in a county jail less than one year, or in the state prison not exceeding five years, or by all of them, according to the aggravation of the offence.

SEC. 5. If the amount of indebtedness, including liquidated liabilities, exceeds, at the time when contracted, or immediately after making a dividend of capital or profits, this limitation, the stockholders become individually liable for such debts, without limitation of amount, for the time and to be enforced in the manner provided in sections twenty-four to thirty-seven inclusive of chapter forty-six.

SEC. 6. For the loss or damage of property transported on a river, stream, or bay, by boat for hire, the boat is liable, whether owned or not by the person undertaking such transportation, and may be attached on a writ against him sued out within sixty days after such loss or damage; and may be sold on an execution issued on a judgment recovered in such suit as other personal property, and any surplus paid to the owner of the boat. Such attachment is to be effectual against any conveyance or lien after such loss or injury, and prior to the attachment.

CHAP. 53.

Boats liable for loss or damage of property transported, and may be attached.  
R. S. c. 52, § 6.  
26 Me. 185.  
27 Me. 132.

SEC. 7. The provisions respecting payment and evading payment of fares, contained in section forty-one of chapter fifty-one, are applicable to steamboats. The effects left by passengers in steamboats are to be advertised as provided in section forty-three of that chapter. The provisions contained in sections forty-three, forty-four, forty-five and forty-six, of that chapter, are applicable to these corporations. The provisions contained in section thirty-six of that chapter are applicable to these corporations, and to the proprietors of stage coaches, and to common carriers.

Certain sections of chapter 51, applicable to steamboats, stage coaches, and common carriers.  
R. S. c. 52, § 7.

## CHAPTER 53.

### TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

- SEC. 1. Owners of telegraphs, liable for errors and unnecessary delays in transmitting dispatches. All dispatches to be sent in the order received, under penalty. Penalty for falsifying dispatch or divulging the contents.
2. Operator, or other employees, not exonerated in case of fraud, or company, from liabilities at common law.
3. Person desiring to disconnect or remove telegraph wires, first to give notice to company. Penalty for doing it without.
4. How damages for taking land are to be estimated and paid.

SEC. 1. A person or company owning or using a line of telegraph, wholly or partly in this state, for any error or unnecessary delay in writing out, transmitting or delivering a dispatch within their delivery limits, making it less valuable to the person interested therein, shall be liable for the whole amount paid on such dispatch; and they shall transmit all dispatches in the order they are received, under a penalty of one hundred dollars to be recovered with cost by the person whose dispatch is willfully postponed; and if any operator or agent designedly falsifies any dispatch, he shall forfeit not less than twenty nor more than one hundred dollars, to be recovered in an action of debt; and in case of his avoidance or inability to pay such judgment,

Owners of telegraphs liable for errors or delays in sending dispatches. All to be sent in order received, under penalty. Penalty for falsifying or divulging contents of dispatch.  
R. S. c. 53, §§ 1, 2.  
1864, c. 140, §§ 3, 4.