

# 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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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.

**CHAP. 54.** such person or company shall forfeit a like sum ; and if such operator or agent willfully divulges any part of the contents of a private dispatch entrusted to him for transmission or delivery, he shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail not more than three months.

Operator or other employees not exonerated for frauds, or company, from common law liabilities. R. S. c. 53, § 3, 43 Me. 492. Person desiring to disconnect or remove telegraph wires, first to give notice to company. Penalty for doing it without. 1868, c. 140, §§ 1, 2.

**SEC. 2.** Nothing herein shall exonerate any operator, agent, clerk, or other officer, employed on a telegraph line, from liability for any act of fraud committed or attempted by means of telegraphic communication ; or the company from any liabilities existing at common law for any neglect or wrong doing of such company or its agents.

**SEC. 3.** A person desiring to disconnect or remove the wires of a telegraph company to move a building or for any other purpose, shall leave a written statement of the time and place at their office, if they have any in that town, twenty-four hours before the time fixed, if not he shall send it by mail, post paid, to their nearest office, three days before the time ; and whoever disconnects or removes such wires without first giving such notice, shall be punished by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not more than three years.

How damages for taking land are to be estimated and paid. 1867, c. 65.

**SEC. 4.** When a telegraph company is authorized to locate its line over the lands of an individual or corporation, and the parties cannot agree on the damages occasioned thereby, they shall be estimated, secured and paid in the manner provided in case of land taken for railroads.

## CHAPTER 54.

### AQUEDUCTS.

- SEC. 1.** Meeting of proprietors of aqueducts for incorporations, how called.
2. Declared a corporation ; may decide how to call future meetings, choose clerk to be sworn, directors and other officers.
3. Directors to choose president, make assessments and collect same by suit or sale of shares.
4. Registry of shares and transfers.
5. Manner of voting ; may impose penalties for breach of by-laws ; hold real estate and dig up and open roads to lay or repair pipes, but not to prevent passage of teams.
6. Shares may be sold for debts of holders ; and franchise, pipes, fountains and real interests liable to be attached and sold for corporate debts as personal property. Corporation has two months to redeem, and if not so redeemed, franchise and property vests in purchaser. Execution satisfied by ineffectual sale, revived by *scire facias*.
7. Penalty for injuring on aqueduct.
8. Towns may draw water in case of fires from pipes free of expense.