

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.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE.



PORTLAND:
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SEC. 10. If such corporation owns any estate at its dissolution the proprietors shall be tenants in common thereof in proportion to the shares or interest which they hold in its stock.

CHAP. 55.
Proprietors,
tenants in
common of
property left
at dissolution.
R. S. c. 54, § 16.

CHAPTER 55.

LIBRARIES, CHARITABLE SOCIETIES, AND PUBLIC CEMETERIES.

- SEC. 1. Application to a justice of the peace to call the first meeting.
- 2. Notice of the meeting how given.
- 3. Manner of organizing into a body corporate. Powers, duties, and liabilities incident thereto.
- 4. What estate real and personal it may hold, and for what purpose.
- 5. Corporations for charitable and benevolent purposes not to sue their members, or be sued by them, for dues or benefits.
- 6. County law library association, how organized.
- 7, 8. Duties of treasurer and clerk thereof.
- 9. Towns may establish public libraries, and raise money therefor.
- 10. Towns and plantations may receive gifts for public libraries; and when such plantation is incorporated, they vest in the town.
- 11. How proprietors of public cemeteries may be incorporated. Their property and stock exempt from attachment and taxation.

SEC. 1. When seven or more persons desire to be incorporated as the proprietors of a social, military, literary, scientific, or a county law library; as a masonic lodge, or chapter of any order or degree; as a lodge of the independent order of odd fellows; as a division of the sons of temperance; as a tent of Rechabites; or as a society to promote in any way the cause of temperance; or for any literary, scientific, musical, charitable, or benevolent purpose whatsoever, they may apply in writing to any justice of the peace in the county, and he may issue his warrant, directed to one of said applicants, requiring him to call a meeting of the applicants, at such time and place as the justice appoints.

Application to
a justice of the
peace to call
the first
meeting.
R. S. c. 55, § 1.

SEC. 2. He may call it, by reading the warrant in the presence and hearing of each, or by leaving an attested copy thereof at his last and usual place of abode, at least fourteen days before the day of meeting, or by publishing an attested copy thereof in some newspaper printed in said county, two weeks successively, the first publication to be at least fourteen days before the day of meeting.

Notice of the
meeting how
given.
R. S. c. 55, § 2.

SEC. 3. When assembled pursuant to the warrant, they may organize themselves into a corporation, with such name as they then adopt, and they, their associates, and successors may have continual succession; have a common seal; elect all necessary officers; adopt by-laws, not inconsistent with the laws of the state, and enforce the

Manner of
organizing
into a body
corporate, &c.
R. S. c. 55, § 3.

CHAP. 55. same by suitable penalties; have the same rights and be under the same liabilities, as other corporations, in prosecuting and defending suits at law; and have and enjoy all other rights, privileges, and immunities, of a legal corporation.

What estate it may hold, and for what purposes.
R. S. c. 55, § 4.
1867, c. 74,

SEC. 4. Such corporation may take and hold by purchase, gift, devise, or bequest, personal or real estate, in all not exceeding in value twenty-five thousand dollars, owned at any one time, and use and dispose thereof only for the purposes for which the corporation was organized.

Corporations for charitable purposes not to sue their members or be sued by them.
R. S. c. 55, § 5.

SEC. 5. No corporation, organized for charitable or benevolent purposes, shall sue any of its members for dues or contributions of any kind, or be sued by any member for any benefit or sum due him, but all such rights and benefits, dues and liabilities, shall be regulated and enforced only in accordance with its by-laws.

County law library association, how organized.
R. S. c. 55, § 6.

SEC. 6. In every county, where five or more attorneys reside, any five of them may procure themselves and the other attorneys resident in the county to be incorporated as aforesaid for the purpose of establishing a law library; and the notification required, if posted up in some conspicuous part of the court house seven days previous to their meeting, shall be sufficient; and may take the name of "The trustees of the law library in the county of —;" and at such meeting, which shall be held at a term of the court therein, they may choose a clerk, librarian, and treasurer, to be duly sworn, and hold their offices during the pleasure of the corporation; and make all lawful regulations necessary; and at their meetings, the oldest member present of the bar of the county shall preside.

Duties of treasurer and clerk thereof.
R. S. c. 55, § 7.

SEC. 7. The treasurer of each library association, under the direction of the trustees, shall apply all moneys received of the county treasurer, all bequests and donations, to form a law library under the appointed regulations; and the clerk shall keep an exact record of all their proceedings.

Treasurer shall keep an account of all moneys, and annually settle the same.
R. S. c. 55, § 8.

SEC. 8. The treasurer shall keep an exact account of all moneys, donations, and bequests, belonging to the corporation, and annually settle the same on oath, in the manner prescribed; and the treasurer, librarian, and clerk, shall be answerable for all misfeasance in an action by the corporation. The treasurer shall, annually in January and before the second Wednesday, deposit in the office of the state treasurer a statement of the funds received the year preceding by the corporation.

Towns may establish public libraries, and raise money therefor.
R. S. c. 55, §§ 9, 10.

SEC. 9. Any town is authorized to establish and maintain a public library therein, for the use of the inhabitants, and provide suitable rooms therefor, under such regulations for its government as the inhabitants from time to time prescribe; and appropriate, for the foundation and commencement of such library, a sum not exceeding one dollar, and for its maintenance and increase annually a sum not

exceeding twenty-five cents, for each of its ratable polls in the year next preceding. CHAP. 56.

SEC. 10. Any town or plantation, as such, may receive, hold and manage any devises, bequests or donations for the establishment, increase or maintenance of a public library therein; and when such plantation is incorporated into a town, such gifts and the proceeds thereof shall fully vest in such town.

Towns and plantations may receive gifts for public libraries; and when such plantation is incorporated, they vest in the town.
R. S. c. 55, § 11.
1864, c. 271,
§§ 1, 2.

PUBLIC CEMETERIES.

SEC. 11. Any seven or more persons may be incorporated in the manner hereinbefore provided, for the purpose of owning, managing and protecting lands and their appurtenances appropriated for public cemeteries; and the property of such corporations and the shares of stock therein, shall be exempt from attachment and taxation.

How proprietors of public cemeteries may be incorporated. their property and stock exempt from attachment and taxation.
1870, c. 95.

CHAPTER 56.

PROPRIETORS OF LANDS, WHARVES, AND OTHER REAL ESTATE, IN COMMON.

- SEC. 1. Warrant for calling meetings. To whom directed.
2. Modes of giving notice.
 3. Officers, and manner of calling future meetings.
 4. Officers to be sworn.
 5. No business to be transacted, unless specified in the warrant. How votes are to be counted. May pass by-laws, subject to approval of county commissioners, and annex penalties.
 6. Prosecution and defence of actions.
 7. Raising and assessment of moneys. Publication of assessment.
 8. Payment enforced by sale.
 9. Right of redemption.
 10. Treasurer's power and duties.
 11. Management of property. Proxies.
 12. Proprietors' records, how preserved.
 13. Certain corporate powers continued after final division.
 14. Money raised for highways.

SEC. 1. When any five, or a majority of the proprietors of lands lying in common, are desirous of a meeting of the proprietors, and apply in a writing, signed by them or their agents, to a justice of the peace throughout the state, or a justice of the peace for the county in which the lands lie, he may issue his warrant for calling a meeting, at the time and place, and for the purposes distinctly stated in the application, directed to one of the proprietors, requiring him to give notice thereof.

Warrant for calling meetings. To whom directed.
R. S. c. 56, § 1.