

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FOURTH REVISION.

THE  
REVISED STATUTES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

PASSED AUGUST 29, 1883, AND TAKING EFFECT JANUARY 1, 1884.

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## CHAPTER 25.

KEEPING WATCH AND WARD IN TOWNS, AND OF DISORDERS IN  
STREETS AND PUBLIC PLACES.

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SEC. 1. Every male person except ministers of the gospel, twenty-one years of age or upwards, who is able-bodied or has estate sufficient to hire a substitute, when duly warned, is liable to watch and ward in his town, either in person or by a sufficient substitute; unless he resides more than two miles from the place where the watch or ward is kept.

Who are liable to keep watch and ward.  
R.S., c. 25, § 1.

SEC. 2. The justices of the peace and municipal officers resident in any town may, from time to time, direct and order suitable watches to be kept nightly therein from such hour in the evening as they appoint until sunrise; and wards to be kept in the day-time and evening, when they think it necessary. They may designate the time, place, and number of persons to be so employed; and give written orders accordingly, signed by a majority of them, directed to any constable of the town, requiring him to warn such watch or ward, and to see that all persons so warned attend and perform their duty as required; and in the warning, to take care that some able householders, or other sufficient persons are joined in each watch or ward.

Power of selectmen and justices to order watch and ward to be kept, and proceedings.  
R.S., c. 25, § 2.  
15 Me., 156.

SEC. 3. Such constable shall charge the watch to see that all disturbances at night are prevented or suppressed; and for that purpose the watch may examine all persons found walking abroad after ten o'clock at night, and suspected of any unlawful intention, as to their business and where they are going; enter houses of ill-fame, to suppress any disturbance or riot therein; and arrest any person there found engaged in such riot or disturbance; and all suspicious persons thus abroad, who do not give a satisfactory account of themselves; and all persons so arrested shall be secured until morning, and then be carried before one of the nearest trial justices for trial.

Charge of constable, and powers of watch.  
R.S., c. 25, § 3.

SEC. 4. The watchmen shall walk in and about the streets, wharves, lanes, and principal inhabited parts of each town, to prevent fires and

Duties of watch.  
R.S., c. 25, § 4.

**CHAP. 25.** see that good order is kept; and shall suitably observe the charge given them as aforesaid.

Badges of constable and watch.  
R.S., c. 25, § 5.

SEC. 5. Each constable, when attending watch or ward, shall carry with him the usual badge of his office; and the watchmen shall carry a suitable badge, provided by the municipal officers of their town.

Expense of watch otherwise kept, how defrayed.  
R.S., c. 25, § 6.  
Proceedings in such case.  
R.S., c. 25, § 7.

SEC. 6. When the inhabitants of a town determine to keep a watch in any other manner than is provided herein, the expense thereof shall be defrayed as other town charges.

SEC. 7. When a watch is established under the preceding section, the town shall determine the number and qualifications of the persons to be employed for that purpose, and the municipal officers shall appoint a suitable person to be captain of the watch. Every watchman shall be equipped as the municipal officers determine; and the powers and duties of the captain and watchmen shall be the same as prescribed in the case of a constable's watch.

Penalty for neglect of duty by a watch.  
R.S., c. 25, § 8.

SEC. 8. If any person liable to watch and ward, when duly warned by such captain or constable, or by any person appointed by either, refuses or neglects to appear and perform his duty, by himself or a sufficient substitute, without just and reasonable excuse, he forfeits, for each offence, not less than one dollar, nor more than ten dollars to the town.

Penalty for neglect of officer.  
R.S., c. 25, § 9.

SEC. 9. If a constable or captain of the watch neglects or refuses to obey the orders given him, he forfeits not less than ten dollars to the town.

Constable and watchmen to attend justices when walking the rounds.  
R.S., c. 25, § 10.

SEC. 10. When said justices and municipal officers think fit to walk by night to inspect the order of their town, or depute any portion of their number for the purpose, such constables and watchmen as are required shall attend them or said deputation, and obey their lawful commands.

Penalty for riding with a naked scythe.  
R.S., c. 25, § 11.

SEC. 11. Whoever rides in the highways or in any lanes, streets, or alleys with a naked scythe, sharpened and hung in a snath, forfeits two dollars for each offence.

Certain pageantry prohibited in streets in the night.  
R.S., c. 25, § 12.

SEC. 12. If three or more persons, between sunset and sunrise, assemble in any street or lane in a town and have any imagery or pageantry for a public show, whether armed or disguised, or requiring or receiving money, or other valuable things or not, on account thereof; and if any person sets fire to a pile of combustible stuff, or is concerned in making or causing a bonfire in any street, lane or other part of the town within ten rods of any building, all such offenders shall forfeit eight dollars, or be imprisoned not more than one month for each offence.

—bonfires in streets and towns prohibited.

Fines, how recovered and appropriated.  
R.S., c. 25, § 13.

SEC. 13. One half of the fines provided for in this chapter shall be for the town where the offence is committed, and the other half for the prosecutor.

Masters and parents liable for minors.  
R.S., c. 25, § 14.

SEC. 14. Masters are liable to pay all fines mentioned in this chapter for the offences of their servants or apprentices, if legally bound to them, at the election of the prosecutor; and parents are liable at the like election for the offences of minor children, unless such children are bound to other persons as servants or apprentices.