

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTH REVISION

THE  
REVISED STATUTES

OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE

PASSED SEPTEMBER 20, 1944, AND TAKING EFFECT  
DECEMBER 30, 1944

VOLUME I



By the Authority of the Legislature

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AUGUSTA  
KENNEBEC JOURNAL PRINT

# FOREWORD

The eighth revision of the public laws of the state was authorized by chapter 140 of the resolves of 1941. This is the first revision since the office of the revisor of statutes was created in 1931, as previous revisions were prepared under the supervision of a commissioner appointed by the governor in office.

A joint select committee on revision of statutes was appointed by authority of the 90th legislature to prepare and complete the present revision. This committee made its report to the 91st legislature, and by authority of chapter 38 of the resolves of 1943 another joint select committee was appointed to complete the revision. In the interim, the term of office of the revisor of statutes, L. Smith-Dunnack, Esq., expired and the present revisor was appointed by Governor Sewall and assumed office on February 2nd, 1944. The revision was completed and the final draft was submitted to the 91st legislature at a special session held on the 18th day of September, 1944, at which session the present revision was enacted and approved by Governor Sewall and the revised statutes of 1930 and subsequent public acts, with certain exemptions, were repealed. This action of the special session became effective on the 30th day of December, 1944.

An effort has been made in this revision to codify the public laws of the state. All related matters, as far as expedient, have been brought together. For example, chapter 125 of the revised statutes of 1930, relating to salaries of public officers and compensation of members of the government, and chapter 126 of the revised statutes of 1930, relating to the regulation of fees and costs, have not been printed as separate chapters, but the several sections of these chapters have been placed with the various related subject-matters. An effort has also been made to delete obsolete laws, to simplify antiquated language and to rearrange sections in an orderly manner. Many cross references under sections have been added as additional aids.

By legislative authority chapters 38 and 84 of the revised statutes of 1930, entitled "Inland Fisheries and Game" and "The Insolvent Law", respectively, have not been printed, but have been specifically exempted from the repealing act. Certain other public acts of less general interest, as well as many public acts pertaining to war measures passed by the 90th and 91st legislatures and containing temporary provisions or provisions of limited duration, have been omitted in the new revision because of their limited existence. These public acts have also been specifically exempted from the repealing act.

A topical index, in substance in the following form, was submitted to the revision committee by L. Smith Dunnack, Esq., former revisor of statutes. This index was adopted by the revision committee as the foundation upon which the revision should be based.

1. Sovereignty and Jurisdiction
2. Elections
3. Legislative and Executive Laws
4. Administrative Laws
  - A. State (Including Boards)
  - B. County
  - C. City, Town, and Plantation
5. Courts
  - A. Supreme
  - B. Superior

- C. Municipal
- D. Trial Justice
- 6. Civil Rights and Remedies
- 7. Crimes and Offenses
- 8. Probate Laws
- 9. Uniform Laws

It is hoped that this foundation will prove to be enduring and that future revision may be built thereon.

Chapter 24 of this revision, entitled "Maine Unemployment Compensation Law", was originally enacted as a consequence of an act of congress. The text of the law is a general federal plan and it is administered in accordance with federal rules and regulations and under the supervision of the Social Security Board in Washington, D. C. The repeal of any section thereof or any amendment or addition thereto must be approved by the federal agency which had powers and duties under the provisions of the original act of congress. It is in a mechanical form used by the federal government, and due to the fact that there was not sufficient time to obtain the approval necessary for the contemplated changes from the Social Security Board in Washington, D. C., it became necessary to print the law in the revision in the same manner and form as found and not according to the mechanical form established for the revision.

With the above exception, the following set-up shows the mechanical form used:

- Sec. 1. means "section";
- I. means "subsection";
- A. means "paragraph";
- i. means "subparagraph";
- a. means "division";
- (1) means "subdivision".

It is hoped that this uniform procedure will bring about more accurate reference to the revised statutes.

Certain legislation, such as the "Code", Health and Welfare Laws, Maine Unemployment Compensation Law, Personnel Law, and the Employees' Retirement System, has necessitated innumerable changes and has added many pages to the revision; consequently, the present revision is of considerably greater length than any previous revision and this has necessitated the printing of the revision in two volumes.

A cross reference table, authorized by chapter 140 of the resolves of 1941, will be found in the back of this revision. This table is an additional feature of the present revision and shows where every section of the 1930 revision and subsequent public acts have been placed in this revision. Attention is also called to a cross reference table of the constitution of Maine which will be found on page 37 and to a topical index which precedes the descriptive-word index.

Acknowledgment must be made to the office staff of the revisor of statutes and the superintendent of public printing for full cooperation in completing the revision at this time.

Augusta, December 30, 1944.

SAMUEL H. SLOSBERG,  
Revisor of Statutes.