

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

REVISED STATUTES
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
1954

1959 CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT

ANNOTATED

IN FIVE VOLUMES
VOLUME 4

Place in Pocket of Corresponding
Volume of Main Set

THE MICHIE COMPANY
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
1959

8:00 P. M. and prior to 8:00 A. M. of the following day he shall be permitted to receive a charge of up to \$10 for the occasion of taking such bail, but said charge shall not be in addition to the charge in each case otherwise authorized in this section but shall be inclusive of such charge or charges.

(1955, c. 356.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1955 amendment added the proviso at the end of the first paragraph. As the second paragraph was not changed, it is not set out.

Sec. 35-A. Surety bonds authorized in criminal cases.—In any criminal proceeding or mesne process or other process where a bail bond recognizance or personal sureties or other obligation is required, or whenever any person is arrested and is required or permitted to recognize with sureties for his appearance in court, the court official or other authority authorized by law to accept and approve the same shall accept and approve in lieu thereof, when offered, a good and sufficient surety bond duly executed by a surety company authorized to do business in this state. (1959, c. 143, § 2.)

Chapter 127.

Writ of Audita Querela.

Secs. 1-7. Repealed by Public Laws 1959, c. 317, § 279.

Effective date and applicability of Public Laws 1959, c. 317. — Section 420, chapter 317, Public Laws 1959, provides as follows: "This act shall become effective December 1, 1959. It shall apply to all actions brought after December 1, 1959 and also to all further proceedings in actions at law or suits

in equity then pending, except to the extent that in the opinion of the court the application of this act in a particular action pending on December 1, 1959 would not be feasible or would work injustice, in which event the laws in effect prior to December 1, 1959 would prevail."

Chapter 129.

Writs of Error, Certiorari, Mandamus and Quo Warranto.

Writs of Error.

Secs. 1-10. Repealed by Public Laws 1959, c. 317, § 280.

Effective date and applicability of Public Laws 1959, c. 317. — Section 420, chapter 317, Public Laws 1959, provides as follows: "This act shall become effective December 1, 1959. It shall apply to all actions brought after December 1, 1959 and also to all further proceedings in actions at law or suits

in equity then pending, except to the extent that in the opinion of the court the application of this act in a particular action pending on December 1, 1959 would not be feasible or would work injustice, in which event the laws in effect prior to December 1, 1959 would prevail."

Writs of Error in Criminal Cases.

Sec. 11. Writ of error in criminal cases.

Quoted in *Dwyer v. State*, 151 Me. 382, 120 A. (2d) 276.

Sec. 12. Effect; custody of plaintiff; release on bail; copies of judgment.

Errors that appear upon face of record.—This section and section 11 of this chapter, when this statute has been invoked, have been construed to apply to

those errors that appear upon the face of the record. *Dwyer v. State*, 151 Me. 382, 120 A. (2d) 276.

A writ of error coram nobis may be petitioned for in the superior court in the county where conviction was had, or judgment rendered, in the case, and where the record is. If the petition is in proper

form and the petition shows on its face a valid cause (when or if proved by the petitioner at a hearing on the writ), the court should order the writ of error coram nobis to issue and hearing should be had thereon. *Dwyer v. State*, 151 Me. 382, 120 A. (2d) 276.

Writs of Certiorari.

Sec. 16. Limitation of applications.—No application for a writ of certiorari shall be sustained unless made within 6 years next after the proceedings complained of; but if the person entitled to apply for such writ is a minor, insane, imprisoned or not in the United States when becoming so entitled, then he, his heirs, executors or administrators may apply for the writ within 5 years after the removal of such disability. (R. S. c. 116, § 16, 1959, c. 317, § 281.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1959 amendment rewrote this section.

Effective date and applicability of Public Laws 1959, c. 317.—Section 420, chapter 317, Public Laws 1959, provides as follows: "This act shall become effective December 1, 1959. It shall apply to all actions brought after December 1, 1959 and also to all fur-

ther proceedings in actions at law or suits in equity then pending, except to the extent that in the opinion of the court the application of this act in a particular action pending on December 1, 1959 would not be feasible or would work injustice, in which event the laws in effect prior to December 1, 1959 would prevail."

Writs of Mandamus.

Sec. 17. Presentation of petition; questions of law reserved; issue and return.—A petition for a writ of mandamus may be presented to a justice of the supreme judicial court or of the superior court in any county, who may, upon notice to all parties, hear and determine the same, or may reserve questions of law arising thereon, upon appeal or otherwise, for the determination of the law court, which may hear and determine the same as provided; but in all cases where objections are made to any rulings, findings or decrees made upon such petition, the case shall be proceeded with as if no objections are made, until a decision shall be had and the peremptory writ shall have been ordered or denied, so that an affirmance on appeal would finally dispose of the case, which shall then be certified to the chief justice of the supreme judicial court as provided in section 18. If on such hearing such writ is ordered, it may be issued from the clerk's office in any county and be made returnable as the court directs. (R. S. c. 116, § 17, 1959, c. 317, § 282.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1959 amendment deleted "in term time or vacation" following "in any county" near the beginning of the section, substituted "appeal" for "exceptions," deleted "hereinafter" before "provided," substituted "objections are made" for "exceptions are alleged" and "objections are made" for "exceptions had

been taken," added "or denied" following "ordered," substituted "an affirmance on appeal" for "the overruling of such exceptions," and substituted "section 18" for "the following section" at the end of the first sentence.

Effective date of 1959 amendment.—See note to § 16.

Sec. 18. Return to writ; answer; judgment and peremptory writ; costs; no action for false return.—When a writ of mandamus issues, the person required to make return thereto shall make his return to the first writ, and the person suing the writ may by an answer deny any material facts contained in such return or may move to dismiss for insufficiency in law. If the party suing the writ maintains the issue on his part, his damages shall be assessed and a judgment rendered that he recover the same with costs, and that a peremptory writ of mandamus be granted; otherwise the party making the return shall recover

costs. No action shall be maintained for a false return to a writ of mandamus. After judgment and decree that the peremptory writ be granted or denied, the justice of the court before which the proceedings are pending shall forthwith certify to the chief justice for decision any appeal based on objections to any rulings, findings or decrees made at any stage of the proceedings. Notice of such appeal shall be given within 5 days after judgment and decree. The appealing party shall, within 15 days thereafter, forward to the chief justice his written argument upon such appeal and shall, within said 15 days, furnish the adverse party or his attorney with a copy of such argument. The adverse party shall, within 15 days after receipt of such copy, forward to the chief justice his written argument in reply. Thereupon the justices of said court shall consider said cause immediately and decide thereon and transmit their decision to the clerk of the court where the petition is pending, and final judgment shall be entered accordingly. If the judgment is in favor of the petitioner, the peremptory writ of mandamus shall thereupon be issued. (R. S. c. 116, § 18. 1959, c. 317, § 283.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1959 amendment divided the next to last sentence into three sentences, substituted “deny” for “traverse,” and “move to dismiss for insufficiency in law” for “demur” in the first sentence, added “or denied” following “granted,” and substituted “any appeal based on objections” for “all exceptions

which may be filed and allowed” in the fourth sentence, added the fifth sentence, and substituted “appealing” for “excepting” and “appeal” for “exceptions” in the sixth sentence.

Effective date of 1959 amendment.—See note to § 16.

Chapter 130.

Crimes against the Person.

Murder, Assault with Intent and Attempt to Murder.

Sec. 1. Murder, definition.

History of section.—See State v. Arsenault, 152 Me. 121, 124 A. (2d) 741.

In this state degrees of murder, etc.

In accord with 1st paragraph in original. See State v. Arsenault, 152 Me. 121, 124 A. (2d) 741.

Nor is it limited to hatred, etc.

“Malice,” as used in the definition of murder, does not necessarily imply ill will or hatred. It is a wrongful act, known to be such, and intentionally done without just and lawful cause or excuse. State v. Arsenault, 152 Me. 121, 124 A. (2d) 741.

And all homicide is, etc.

When the fact of killing is proved and nothing further is shown, the presumption of law is that it is malicious and an act of murder. State v. Arsenault, 152 Me. 121, 124 A. (2d) 741.

Voluntary intoxication. — Intoxication

will not reduce to manslaughter where there is malice aforethought, and where there is no provocation or sudden passion. Voluntary intoxication is no excuse for murder. State v. Arsenault, 152 Me. 121, 124 A. (2d) 741.

The rule regarding the defense of insanity should never be extended to apply to voluntary intoxication in a murder case. It would not only open wide the door to defenses built on frauds and perjuries, but would build a broad, easy turnpike for escape. All that the crafty criminal would require for a well-planned murder, in Maine, would be a revolver in one hand to commit the deed, and a quart of intoxicating liquor in the other with which to build his excusable defense. State v. Arsenault, 152 Me. 121, 124 A. (2d) 741.

Sec. 6. Assault with intent to murder or kill.

A reckless and wanton disregard of rights of others may, under some circumstances be an assault even where no particular person was singled out or aimed at.

State v. Barnett, 150 Me. 473, 114 A. (2d) 245.

Intent to kill or do bodily harm may be inferred from circumstances where one