

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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

ever circulates, posts or causes to be circulated or posted in any conspicuous or public place any picture, handbill or poster containing obscene, indecent or immoral representations; or in any manner hires, uses or employs any minor to sell or give away, or in any manner to distribute, or who, having the care, custody or control of any minor, permits such minor to sell or give away, or in any manner to distribute any book, magazine, pamphlet or newspaper as described in this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months, or by both. Trial justices within their county shall have, by complaint, jurisdiction of the offenses mentioned in this section, original and concurrent with municipal courts and the superior court. (R. S. c. 121, § 27, 1957, c. 321, § 2.)

Effect of amendment.—Prior to the 1957 amendment this section was applicable also to sale or distribution to minors of publications principally containing criminal news. The 1957 amendment deleted such provision and also increased the minimum fine from \$25 to \$50 and the

maximum imprisonment from 6 months to 11 months in the first sentence.

Editor's note.—The publications referred to are no longer described in this section. See now § 24 of this chapter re publications depicting crime and torture.

Lord's Day. Memorial Day. Disturbance of Religious Meetings. Sunday Sports, Moving Pictures and Bowling.

Sec. 38-A. Sunday sales of motor vehicles and mobile homes prohibited.—Any person who shall carry on or engage in the business of buying, selling, exchanging, dealing or trading in new or used motor vehicles or mobile homes; or who shall open any place of business or lot wherein he attempts to or does engage in the business of buying, selling, exchanging, dealing or trading in new or used motor vehicles or mobile homes; or who does buy, sell, exchange, deal or trade in new or used motor vehicles or mobile homes as a business on the first day of the week, commonly known and designated as Sunday, is a disorderly person. Such a disorderly person upon conviction for the first offense shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100 or by imprisonment for not more than 10 days, or by both; and for the second offense shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both; and for the third or each subsequent offense shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$750 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or by both. If the person is the holder of dealer or transit registration plates under chapter 22, sections 26 or 26-A, such person shall also be subject to the suspension or revocation of said plates, as provided for in chapter 22, section 27, for the violation of this section. (1959, c. 302, § 2.)

Chapter 135.

Crimes against Public Justice and Official Duty.

Perjury and Subornation of Perjury.

Sec. 1. Perjury; subornation of perjury, definitions.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

Elements must be charged and proved.—The elements of perjury must be charged and proved with reference to the committed perjury or the intended perjury as the case may be. In subornation no difficulty arises in charging perjury in a

pending proceeding. In attempted subornation, however, the proceedings in which the perjury is intended may or may not be pending. *State v. Potts*, 154 Me. 114, 144 A. (2d) 261.

The proceeding in which perjury is committed must be a pending proceeding. This

indeed is saying no more than that the testimony must be given in a proceeding described in this section. Without such testimony so given there can be neither perjury nor subornation. *State v. Potts*, 154 Me. 114, 144 A. (2d) 261.

Effect of pending proceedings when procurement, in distinction from perjury, takes place.—It is immaterial whether a proceeding is pending when the procurement, in distinction from the perjury, takes place. The evil reached by the statute is the procurement of perjury at a future time. *State v. Potts*, 154 Me. 114, 144 A. (2d) 261.

Indictment held valid.—An indictment which plainly states the limitation upon the false testimony so that the basis for separation of the false from the true is certain and clear is valid even though the in-

Sec. 2. Attempted subornation of perjury.

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Sec. 4. Indictment.

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The proceeding in which perjury is committed must be a pending proceeding. This indeed is saying no more than that the testimony must be given in a proceeding described in § 1. Without such testimony so given there can be neither perjury nor subornation. *State v. Potts*, 154 Me. 114, 144 A. (2d) 261.

Effect of pending proceedings when procurements, in distinction from perjury, takes place.—It is immaterial whether a proceeding is pending when the procurement, in distinction from the perjury, takes place. The evil reached by the statute is the procurement of perjury at a future time. *State v. Potts*, 154 Me. 114, 144 A. (2d) 261.

Indictment held valid.—An indictment which plainly states the limitation upon the false testimony so that the basis for separation of the false from the true is certain and clear is valid even though the indictment

alleged that all the quoted testimony was false and then excepted some as true. *State v. Potts*, 154 Me. 114, 144 A. (2d) 261.

An allegation in the indictment that the suborner knew that the testimony when given would be "corruptly and willfully false and untrue" sufficiently alleges that the suborner had knowledge that the witness knew the testimony was false. *State v. Potts*, 154 Me. 114, 144 A. (2d) 261.

Form of indictment for subornation of perjury.—The form of indictment for subornation of perjury may be set forth as the procurement to commit perjury as described in the statutory form relating to perjury. *State v. Potts*, 154 Me. 114, 144 A. (2d) 261.

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Possibility of materiality must be apparent from face of indictment.—The possibility of materiality of the alleged false testimony must be apparent from the face of the indictment alone, although the indictment need not specify the manner in which the testimony becomes actually material. *State v. Papalos*, 150 Me. 46, 103 A. (2d) 511.

Particular proceeding in which perjury was committed must be identified.—By the language "in which C. D. and E. F. were parties," this section is demanding that the indictment shall set forth a specific, particular proceeding. The section is requiring that this particular proceeding

shall be indentified, in its individuality, from among the multitude of proceedings heard or adjudicated by the competent tribunal involved. *State v. Papalos*, 150 Me. 46, 103 A. (2d) 511.

Adversary proceeding must be identified by naming parties thereto.—An indictment for perjury relating to a proceeding adversary in character, which fails to designate and identify a specific, particular proceeding by naming the parties thereto would be fatally defective, not only at common law, but even under the statute. *State v. Papalos*, 150 Me. 46, 103 A. (2d) 511.

And identification is not dispensed with where proceeding was not adversary.—In a perjury indictment the purpose of identification must be fulfilled and cannot be dispensed with when statutory form is adapted to cover a proceeding which is

not adversary in nature and which lacks parties such as a grand jury inquiry. *State v. Papalos*, 150 Me. 46, 103 A. (2d) 511.

Indictment must designate particular matter being investigated by tribunal involved.—An indictment for perjury, even under a streamlined statutory form, must contain some designation or identification of the particular matter being investigated, or heard, by the tribunal involved. *State v. Papalos*, 150 Me. 46, 103 A. (2d) 511.

Grand jury inquiry insufficiently identified.—The allegation in an indictment for perjury that the grand jury was “then and there engaged in hearing testimony relative to the commission of crime in the county of Kennebec” does not identify the particular proceeding or inquiry by which the materiality of the testimony may be adjudged. *State v. Papalos*, 150 Me. 46, 103 A. (2d) 511.

Bribery and Attempt to Corrupt Officials.

Sec. 5. Bribery and acceptance of bribes by public officers.

Concurrence is not required to establish crime.—In this state and under our statute, concurrence is not required to establish a substantive crime of bribery. *State*

v. Papalos, 150 Me. 370, 113 A. (2d) 624.

Conspiracy to bribe public officer.—See *State v. Papalos*, 150 Me. 370, 113 A. (2d) 624.

Sec. 8. Informer exempted from punishment.

Concealment of immunity by a witness cannot be based upon the fact that several persons and the witness relied upon differ-

ent interpretations of this section. *State v. Papalos*, 150 Me. 370, 113 A. (2d) 624.

Compounding Felonies.

Sec. 12. Concealment or neglect to disclose commission of felony.

Mere omission to disclose without positive concealment, insufficient to justify conviction.—A mere omission to disclose knowledge of the commission of a felony, without positive concealment, is not enough to justify a conviction under this section. *State v. Michaud*, 150 Me. 479, 114 A. (2d) 352.

While this section employs the words “conceals or does not ... disclose” it should be interpreted in the conjunctive, i. e. “conceals and does not ... disclose.” *State v. Michaud*, 150 Me. 479, 114 A. (2d) 352.

Character of knowledge required.—This section requires “knowledge of the actual

commission of a felony.” It must be actual and personal knowledge. It must not be knowledge from hearsay, or from possibilities or probabilities. It must be first-hand knowledge by the respondent of all facts necessary to know that the alleged felony has been committed. *State v. Michaud*, 150 Me. 479, 114 A. (2d) 352.

The indictment must indicate what the knowledge was or how obtained. *State v. Michaud*, 150 Me. 479, 114 A. (2d) 352.

And must set forth acts of concealment.—An indictment under this section must set forth the acts of concealment. *State v. Michaud*, 150 Me. 479, 114 A. (2d) 352.

Malfeasance of Public Officials.

Sec. 17. Public officers forbidden to have pecuniary interest in public contracts; contracts void.—No trustee, superintendent, treasurer or other person holding a place of trust in any state office or public institution of the state, or any officer of a quasi-municipal corporation shall be pecuniarily interested directly

or indirectly in any contracts made in behalf of the state or of the institution or of the quasi-municipal corporation in which he holds such place of trust, and any contract made in violation hereof is void; and if such officer or person receives any drawbacks, presents, gratuities or secret discounts to his own use on account of such contracts, or from the profits in any materials, supplies or labor furnished or done for the state or such institution or such quasi-municipal corporation, he shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months. This section shall not apply to purchases of the state by the governor and council under authority of chapter 1, section 24-A. (R. S. c. 122, § 17. 1959, c. 251, § 2.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1959 amendment added the last sentence to this section.

Refusing to Obey Magistrates. Obstructing, Assaulting and Refusing to Aid Officers.

Sec. 21. Assaults upon or interference with officers; jurisdiction.—Whoever assaults, intimidates or in any manner willfully obstructs, intimidates or hinders any sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, inland fish and game warden, coastal warden, insurance commissioner or his authorized representative, liquor inspector, police officer or state probation-parole officer while in the lawful discharge of his official duties, whether with or without process, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months. In offenses under the provisions of this section, not of an aggravated nature, trial justices may try and punish by a fine of not more than \$20 or by imprisonment for 60 days, and municipal courts may punish by a fine of not more than \$30 or by imprisonment for 60 days. (R. S. c. 122, § 21. 1949, c. 202. 1951, c. 266, § 115. 1953, c. 391. 1959, c. 312, § 15.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1959 amendment included state probation-parole officers in the section.

Chapter 136.

Crimes against Public Peace and Tranquility.

Section 4-A. Disorderly Conduct.

Disorderly Conduct.

Sec. 4-A. Disorderly conduct; penalty.—Any person who shall by any offensive or disorderly conduct, act or language annoy or interfere with any person in any place or with the passengers of any public conveyance, although such conduct, act or language may not amount to an assault or battery, is guilty of a breach of the peace and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or by both. (1957, c. 133.)