

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REVISED STATUTES  
OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE  
1954

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1955 SUPPLEMENT

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ANNOTATED

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IN FIVE VOLUMES

VOLUME 4

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**Place in Pocket of Corresponding  
Volume of Main Set**

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THE MICHIE COMPANY  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
1955

salaries of the registers of probate in Franklin, Sagadahoc, Penobscot, Cumberland, Washington, Lincoln, Oxford, Androscoggin and Kennebec counties respectively. As to Franklin, Sagadahoc, Washington and Lincoln counties, the

amendments were made retroactive to January 1, 1955. As the rest of the section was not changed, only the lines relating to the salaries increased by the amendments are set out.

**Sec. 27. Register pro tempore.**—In case of the absence of the register or in case of a vacancy in the office of the register of probate due to death, resignation or any other cause, the judge shall appoint a suitable person to act as register until the register resumes his duties or another is qualified in his stead. He shall be sworn and, if the judge requires it, give bond as in the case of the register. (R. S. c. 140, § 27. 1955, c. 283.)

**Effect of amendment.**—The 1955 amendment rewrote this section.

### Rules of Practice.

**Sec. 50. Rules of practice and procedure; blanks; revision of rules and blanks; approval.**—The rules of practice and procedure in the courts of probate and insolvency, approved by a majority of the justices of the supreme judicial court June 17, 1916, and as thereafter revised and approved, are in force in all courts of probate and insolvency; and the blanks for use in said courts approved by the supreme judicial court September 30, 1916, and as thereafter revised and approved, shall be used in all courts of probate and insolvency, and no other blanks shall be used therein. The governor shall appoint a commission on probate rules and blanks consisting of 3 judges and 2 registers of probate. Each member of the commission shall serve for 4 years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, but membership on the commission shall terminate when he ceases to be a judge or register of probate. The commission may make new rules and blanks or amendments to existing rules and blanks as changes in statutes or convenience requires. Such new rules and blanks or amended rules and blanks shall, when approved by the supreme judicial court or a majority of the justices thereof, take effect and be in force in all courts of probate and insolvency.

The commission shall elect a chairman and a secretary, and shall receive no compensation for meetings of the commission but shall be reimbursed for their necessary traveling expenses. Compensation for services rendered by the secretary by direction of the commission and necessary clerical assistance and expense of printing reports of the commission shall be paid from any appropriation made therefor. (R. S. c. 140, § 49. 1955, c. 323.)

**Effect of amendment.**—The 1955 amendment rewrote all of this section following the first sentence. Section 2 of the amendatory act provides: "The members of the present Commission appointed by the Governor as provided by Section 50 of

Chapter 153 of the Revised Statutes shall constitute the first Commission under the statutes, as amended by this act, and shall continue as members of the Commission through December 31, 1956."

## Chapter 154.

### Executors and Administrators.

#### Wills and Executors.

**Sec. 6. Depositions.**—When any of the witnesses of a will offered for probate, or any other witness whose testimony is required to prove the signatures of the testator or of the witnesses of such will, live out of the state or more than 30 miles distant or, by age or indisposition of body, are unable to attend court, their depositions, taken as provided in chapter 117 or before a magistrate au-

thorized by commission from the judge, shall be competent evidence in the absence of such witnesses. (R. S. c. 141, § 6. 1955, c. 4.)

**Effect of amendment.**—The 1955 amendment inserted in this section the words “or any other witness whose testimony is required to prove the signatures of the testator or of the witnesses of such will.”

### Special Administrators.

**Sec. 56. Powers and duties.**—The special administrator shall collect all the goods, chattels and debts of the deceased, control and cause to be improved all his real estate, collect the rents and profits thereof and preserve them for the executor or administrator thereafter appointed; and for that purpose may maintain suits and sell such perishable and other goods as the judge orders; and shall have such powers to vote stock owned by the deceased as the deceased would have if living, at all corporation meetings, and the authority to sell and transfer any specific rights which may have accrued to the estate of said deceased as such stockholder and the judge may authorize and direct that the business of the deceased, in whole or in part shall, for a limited time to be determined by him, be carried on by such special administrator as a going business; pay the expenses of the funeral and last sickness and of his administration; debts preferred under the laws of the United States; public rates and taxes, and money due the state from the deceased; and pay to the widow or widower, if any, and if not, to the guardian of the children under 14 years of age, for their temporary support, such sums as the judge orders, having regard to the state and the amount of the property; and sums so paid to the widow, widower or guardian shall be deducted, if the estate is solvent, from the share of the widow, widower or children, but if insolvent, shall be considered by the judge in his allowance to them. (R. S. c. 141, § 50. 1955, c. 276.)

**Effect of amendment.**—The 1955 amendment inserted the words “or widower” in line fourteen and the word “widower” in lines seventeen and eighteen.

## Chapter 155.

### Inheritance, Succession and Estate Taxes.

#### Property Taxable.

##### Sec. 2. Property taxable; exemptions.

###### I.

**C.** By survivorship in any form of joint ownership including joint bank deposits in which the decedent joint owner contributed during his lifetime any part of the property held in such joint ownership or of the purchase price thereof, excepting transfers by survivorship described in paragraph D hereof; (1955, c. 430, § 1)

**D.** By survivorship in any form of joint ownership, other than joint bank deposits and joint building and loan shares, created on or after the effective date of this act, the value of decedent's interest in such joint ownership to be determined for the purpose of this chapter as provided by section 10-A. (1955, c. 430, § 2)

**II.** All proceeds of life insurance policies upon the life of a decedent payable to his estate or to his executors or administrators except, if testate, such part thereof as is bequeathed to a widow or widower, or issue, or, if intestate, such part thereof as descends under the provisions of section 21 of chapter 170. All property which shall pass to or for the use of societies, corporations and institutions now or hereafter exempted by law from taxation, or to a public