

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## CHAPTER 9

## SEAL, MOTTO, EMBLEMS AND FLAGS

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## SUBCHAPTER I

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

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## § 201. State seal

The seal of the State shall be a shield, argent, charged with a pine tree (*Americana*, *quinis ex uno folliculo setis*) with a moose deer (*cervus alces*), at the foot of it, recumbent; supporters: on dexter side, a husbandman, resting on a scythe; on sinister side, a seaman, resting on an anchor.

In the foreground, representing sea and land, and under the shield, shall be the name of the State in large Roman capitals, to wit:

MAINE.

The whole shall be surrounded by a crest, the North Star. The motto, in small Roman capitals, shall be in a label interposed between the shield and crest, viz.:—*DIRIGO*.

1959, c. 363, § 1.

**§ 202. Removal, injury, neglect or refusal to deliver up state seal**

Whoever knowingly and willfully removes the seal of the State of Maine from the office or custody of the Secretary of State at Augusta, or knowingly and willfully secretes, defaces, injures or destroys it, or willfully aids or assists in so doing, or, having the same in his possession or under his control, willfully neglects or refuses to deliver it to the Secretary of State upon demand therefor, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000, and by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than 5 years.

R.S.1954, c. 143, § 6.

**§ 203. Use of great seal in any place but office of Secretary of State**

Whoever knowingly and willfully uses the seal of the State of Maine, or takes any impression therefrom, for any purpose, in any other place than the office of the Secretary of State at Augusta, or knowingly and willfully issues, or receives and acts under any commission, record, document, parchment, instrument or paper bearing the impression of said seal, unless the same has been sealed in said office of said Secretary of State at Augusta, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$3,000 and by imprisonment for not more than 3 years.

R.S.1954, c. 143, § 7.

**§ 204. Use of state seal for commercial purposes**

No imitation, imprint, representation, facsimile or copy of the seal of the State of Maine shall be used or displayed for commercial purposes by any person, firm or corporation, except by written permission of the Governor. Any person may sell flags containing the state seal or a facsimile of the state seal. Whoever violates any of the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days.

R.S.1954, c. 143, § 8.

**§ 205. State motto**

The state motto shall be "Dirigo" (I direct or I guide).

1959, c. 363, § 1.

**§ 206. State flag**

The flag to be known as the official flag of the State shall be of blue, of the same color as the blue field in the flag of the United States, and of the following dimensions and designs; to wit, the length or height of the staff to be 9 feet, including brass spearhead and ferrule; the fly of said flag to be 5 feet 6 inches, and to be 4 feet 4 inches on the staff; in the center of the flag there shall be embroidered in silk on both sides of the flag the coat of arms of the State, in proportionate size; the edges to be trimmed with knotted fringe of yellow silk, 2½ inches wide; a cord, with tassels, to be attached to the staff at the spearhead, to be 8 feet 6 inches long and composed of white and blue silk strands. A flag made in accordance with the description given in this section shall be kept in the office of the Adjutant General as a model.

R.S.1954, c. 1, § 25.

**§ 207. Merchant and marine flag**

The flag to be known as the merchant and marine flag of the State shall be of white, at the top of which in blue letters shall be the motto "Dirigo"; beneath the motto shall be the representation of a pine tree in green color, the trunk of which shall be entwined with the representation of an anchor in blue color; beneath the tree and anchor shall be the name "Maine" in blue color.

R.S.1954, c. 1, § 26.

**§ 208. State tree**

The official tree of the State shall be the white pine tree.

1959, c. 363, § 2.

**§ 209. State bird**

The state bird shall be the chickadee.

1959, c. 363, § 2.

**§ 210. State song**

The official song of the State shall be the song entitled "State of Maine Song," words and music by Roger Vinton Snow.

1959, c. 363, § 2.

**§ 211. State flower**

The floral emblem for the State, in the national garland of flowers, shall be the pine cone and tassel.

1959, c. 363, § 2.

## SUBCHAPTER II

## UNIFORM FLAG LAW

Sec.

- 251. Short title.
- 252. Definitions.
- 253. Desecration.
- 254. Mutilation.
- 255. Exceptions.
- 256. Interpretation.

**§ 251. Short title**

This subchapter may be cited as the "Uniform Flag Law."

R.S.1954, c. 1, § 32.

**§ 252. Definitions**

The words "flag," "standard," "color," "ensign" or "shield," as used in this subchapter, shall include any flag, standard, color, ensign or shield, or copy, picture or representation thereof, made of any substance or represented or produced thereon, and of any size, evidently purporting to be such flag, standard, color, ensign or shield of the United States or of this State, or a copy, picture or representation thereof.

R.S.1954, c. 1, § 27.

**§ 253. Desecration**

No person shall, in any manner, for exhibition or display:

**1. Markings.** Place or cause to be placed any word, figure, mark, picture, design, drawing or advertisement of any nature upon any flag, standard, color, ensign or shield of the United States or of this State, or authorized by any law of the United States or of this State; or

**2. Expose to public view.** Expose to public view any such flag, standard, color, ensign or shield upon which shall have been



printed, painted or otherwise produced, or to which shall have been attached, appended, affixed or annexed any such word, figure, mark, picture, design, drawing or advertisement; or

**3. Merchandise.** Expose to public view for sale, manufacture or otherwise, or to sell, give or have in possession for sale, for gift or for use for any purpose, any substance, being an article of merchandise, or receptacle, or thing for holding or carrying merchandise, upon or to which shall have been produced or attached any such flag, standard, color, ensign or shield, in order to advertize, call attention to, decorate, mark or distinguish such article or substance.

Any violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of not more than \$50.

R.S.1954, c. 1, § 28.

### **§ 254. Mutilation**

No person shall publicly mutilate, deface, defile, defy, trample upon, or by word or act cast contempt upon any such flag, standard, color, ensign or shield.

Any violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or by both.

R.S.1954, c. 1, § 29.

### **§ 255. Exceptions**

This subchapter shall not apply to any act permitted by the statutes of the United States or of this State, or by the United States Army and Navy regulations, nor shall they apply to any printed or written document or production, stationery, ornament, picture or jewelry whereon shall be depicted said flag, standard, color, ensign or shield with no design or words thereon and disconnected with any advertisement.

R.S.1954, c. 1, § 30.

### **§ 256. Interpretation**

This subchapter shall be so construed as to effectuate their general purpose and to make uniform the laws of the states which enact them.

R.S.1954, c. 1, § 31.