

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 19
NOTARIES PUBLIC

Sec.

- 951. Seal; authority to administer oaths.
- 952. Protests of losses; record and copies.
- 953. Demand and notice on bills and notes.
- 954. Acts of notary who is interested in corporation.
- 955. Copies; evidence.
- 956. Resignation or removal; deposit of records.
- 957. Injury or concealment of records.
- 958. Fees for protest and appropriation of penalties.

§ 951. Seal; authority to administer oaths

Every notary public shall constantly keep a seal of office, whereon is engraven his name and the words "Notary Public" and "Maine" or its abbreviation "Me.," with the arms of state or such other device as he chooses. When authorized by the laws of this State or of any other state or country to do any official act, he may administer any oath necessary to the completion or validity thereof.

R.S.1954, c. 110, § 24.

§ 952. Protests of losses; record and copies

When requested, every notary public shall enter on record all losses or damages sustained or apprehended by sea or land, and all averages and such other matters as, by mercantile usage, appertain to his office, grant warrants of survey on vessels, and all facts, extracts from documents and circumstances so noted shall be signed and sworn to by all the persons appearing to protest. He shall note, extend and record the protest so made, and grant authenticated copies thereof, under his signature and notarial seal, to those who request and pay for them.

R.S.1954, c. 110, § 25.

§ 953. Demand and notice on bills and notes

Any notary public may, in behalf of any person interested, present any bill of exchange or other negotiable paper for acceptance or payment to any party liable therefor, notify indorsers or other parties thereto, record and certify all contracts usually recorded or certified by notaries, and in general, do all acts which

may be done by notaries public according to the usages of merchants and authorized by law. He may do all things that justices of the peace are or may be authorized to do and shall have the same territorial jurisdiction. He shall record all mercantile and marine protests by him noted and done in his official capacity.

R.S.1954, c. 110, § 26.

§ 954. Acts of notary who is interested in corporation

Any notary public who is a stockholder, director, officer or employee of a bank or other corporation may take the acknowledgment of any party to any written instrument executed to or by such corporation, or may administer an oath to any other stockholder, director, officer, employee or agent of such corporation, or may protest for nonacceptance or nonpayment bills of exchange, drafts, checks, notes and other negotiable instruments which may be owned or held for collection by such bank or other corporation. It shall be unlawful for any notary public to take the acknowledgment of an instrument by or to a bank or other corporation of which he is a stockholder, director, officer or employee where such notary is a party to such instrument, either individually or as a representative of such bank or other corporation, or to protest any negotiable instrument owned or held for collection by such bank or other corporation, where such notary is individually a party to such instrument.

R.S.1954, c. 110, § 27.

§ 955. Copies; evidence

The protest of any foreign or inland bill of exchange, promissory note or order, and all copies or certificates by him granted shall be under his hand and notarial seal and shall be received in all courts as legal evidence of such transactions and as to the notice given to the drawer or indorser and of all facts therein contained.

R.S.1954, c. 110, § 28.

§ 956. Resignation or removal; deposit of records

On the resignation or removal from office of any notary public, his records shall be deposited with the clerk of the judicial courts in the county for which he was appointed. Any notary public who shall, for a period of 3 months, neglect to comply with such requirement and any administrator or executor representing a deceased notary public who shall, for a period of 3 months, neg-

lect to comply with such requirement shall forfeit not less than \$50 nor more than \$500.

R.S.1954, c. 110, § 29.

§ 957. Injury or concealment of records

Whoever knowingly destroys, defaces or conceals such record forfeits not less than \$200 nor more than \$1,000, and is liable for damages to any person injured in a civil action.

R.S.1954, c. 110, § 30; 1961, c. 317, § 333.

§ 958. Fees for protest and appropriation of penalties

For each protest of a bill or note, notifying parties, making his certificate thereof in due form and recording his proceedings, a notary public shall receive \$1.50. All penalties provided in sections 956 and 957 accrue $\frac{1}{2}$ to the State and $\frac{1}{2}$ to the prosecutor.

R.S.1954, c. 110, § 32.