

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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PART 2

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE TRIAL

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CHAPTER 201

VENUE

Sec.	
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§ 501. Personal and transitory actions; inter-county transfers

Personal and transitory actions, except process of foreign attachment and except as provided in this chapter, shall be brought, when the parties live in the State, in the county where any plaintiff or defendant lives; and when no plaintiff lives in the State, in the county where any defendant lives. Improper venue may be raised by the defendant by motion or by answer, and if it is established that the action was brought in the wrong county, it shall be dismissed and the defendant allowed double costs. When the plaintiff and defendant live in different counties at the commencement of any such action, except process of foreign attachment, and during its pendency one party moves into the same county with the other, it may, on motion of either, be transferred to the county where both then live if the court thinks that justice will thereby be promoted; and be tried as if originally commenced and entered therein. Actions by the assignee of a nonnegotiable chose in action, when brought in the Superior

Court or in the District Court, shall be commenced in the county or division when brought in the District Court, in which the original creditor might have maintained his action.

R.S.1954, c. 112, § 9; 1959, c. 317, § 120; 1963, c. 402, § 166.

§ 502. Sheriff's bond

Actions on bonds given by sheriffs to the Treasurer of State shall be brought in the county for which such sheriff is commissioned.

R.S.1954, c. 112, § 10.

§ 503. Civil actions on judgment

Civil actions founded on judgment rendered by any court of record in the State may be brought in the county where it was rendered or in the county in which either party thereto or his executor or administrator resides at the time of bringing the action.

R.S.1954, c. 112, § 11; 1961, c. 317, § 337.

§ 504. Jurisdiction by attachment

In all actions commenced in any court proper to try them, jurisdiction shall be sustained if goods, estate, effects or credits of any defendant are found within the State and attached.

R.S.1954, c. 112, § 12; 1959, c. 317, § 121.

§ 505. Local and transitory actions where counties, towns and other corporations are parties

Local and transitory actions shall be commenced and tried as follows: When both parties are counties, in any county adjoining either; when a county is plaintiff, if the defendant lives therein, in an adjoining county; if he does not live therein, in the county in which he does live; when a county is defendant, if the plaintiff lives therein, in that county or in an adjoining county; if he does not live therein, in that county or in that in which he does live; when a corporation is one party and a county the other, in any adjoining county; when both parties are towns, parishes or school districts, in the county in which either is situated; when one party is a town, parish or school district and the other some corporation or natural person, in the county in which either of the parties is situated or lives; but all actions against

towns for damages by reason of defects in highways shall be brought and tried in the county in which the town is situated. All other corporations may sue and be sued in the county in which they have an established place of business or in which the plaintiff or defendant, if a natural person, lives.

R.S.1954, c. 112, § 13.

§ 506. Actions for forfeitures

When a forfeiture is recoverable in a civil action, such action shall be brought in the county in which the offense was committed unless a different provision is made by statute. If on trial it does not appear that such offense was committed in the county where the action was brought, the verdict shall be in favor of the defendant.

R.S.1954, c. 112, § 14.

§ 507. State action to recover funds or property

An action in behalf of the State to enforce the collection of state taxes upon any corporation or to recover of any person or corporation moneys due the State, public funds or property belonging to the State, or the value thereof, may be brought in any county. On motion of the defendant, any Justice of the Superior Court may, for sufficient reasons shown, remove the same to the docket of said court in any other county for trial and may, upon such removal, award costs to the defendant for one term, to be paid by the Treasurer of State on presentation of the certificate of the amount thereof from the clerk of courts of the county from which said action is transferred.

R.S.1954, c. 112, § 15; 1959, c. 317, § 122.

§ 508. Change of venue

Any Justice of the Superior Court, on motion of either party, shall, for cause shown, order the transfer of any civil action or criminal case pending in said court to the docket thereof in any other county for trial, preserving all attachments.

R.S.1954, c. 113, § 24; 1959, c. 317, § 164.