

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## CHAPTER 25

**BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION**

Sec.

- 601. Bribery and acceptance of bribes by public officers.
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- 606. Attempts to corrupt jurors, referees and others.
- 607. Participants in contests.
- 608. Acceptance of bribes by participants.

**§ 601. Bribery and acceptance of bribes by public officers**

Whoever gives, offers or promises to an executive, legislative or judicial officer, before or after he is qualified or takes his seat, any valuable consideration or gratuity whatever, or does, offers or promises to do any act beneficial to such officer, with intent to influence his action, vote, opinion or judgment in any matter pending, or that may come legally before him in his official capacity, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$3,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 5 years. Whoever accepts such bribe or beneficial thing, in the manner and for the purpose aforesaid, shall forfeit his office, be forever disqualified to hold any public office, trust or appointment under the State and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 10 years. Sheriffs and deputy sheriffs within the several counties and constables, marshals, deputy marshals and other officers of police of the several cities and towns are declared to be executive officers within the meaning of this section. The enumeration of such officers shall not be held to exclude any other executive officer not specially mentioned herein.

R.S.1954, c. 135, § 5.

**§ 602. Solicitation of influence to procure places of trust; acceptance**

Whoever directly or indirectly gives, offers or promises a valuable consideration or gratuity to any person not included in section 601, with intent to induce such person to procure for him by his interest, influence or any other means any place of

trust in the State; and whoever, not included as aforesaid, accepts the same in the manner and for the purpose aforesaid shall be forever disqualified to hold any place of trust in the State, and be punished by a fine of not more than \$300 and by imprisonment for less than one year.

R.S.1954, c. 135, § 6.

**§ 603. Bribery of jurors, referees, masters, appraisers or auditors; acceptance**

Whoever corruptly gives, offers or promises a valuable consideration or gratuity to any person summoned, appointed, chosen or sworn as a juror, arbitrator, umpire or referee, auditor or appraiser of real or personal estate, with intent to influence his opinion or decision in any matter pending or that may come legally before him for decision or action; and whoever corruptly or knowingly receives the same, in the manner and for the purpose aforesaid, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 5 years.

R.S.1954, c. 135, § 7; 1963, c. 414, § 141.

**§ 604. Informer exempted from punishment**

Whoever, offending in the manner described in sections 601 to 603, gives information under oath against the other party so offending and duly prosecutes him shall be exempt from the disqualifications and punishments therein provided.

R.S.1954, c. 135, § 8.

**§ 605. Bribes received by sheriffs and other officers**

If any sheriff, deputy sheriff or constable receives from any person money or other valuable thing as an inducement for omitting or delaying to sell property on execution, to arrest any defendant and carry him before a judge or to prison or to perform any other official duty, he shall be deemed guilty of malfeasance in office and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 2 years.

R.S.1954, c. 135, § 9.

**§ 606. Attempts to corrupt jurors, referees and others**

Whoever attempts improperly to influence a juror, or anyone drawn, appointed or sworn as such, or an arbitrator, referee or

commissioner appointed by a court of probate in relation to any matter pending, or that may come legally before him for action or decision; and whoever drawn, summoned or sworn as a juror promises or agrees to give a verdict for or against a person in any case, or receives any paper, information or evidence relating to any matter, for the trial of which he is sworn, without the authority of the court or officer before whom such matter is pending and without immediately disclosing it to such court or officer, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$200 and by imprisonment for not more than 3 months.

R.S.1954, c. 135, § 10.

### § 607. Participants in contests

Whoever gives, promises or offers to any professional or amateur baseball, football, hockey, polo, tennis or basketball player or boxer or any player or referee or other official who participates or expects to participate in any professional or amateur game or sport or any jockey, driver, groom or any person participating or expecting to participate in any horse race, including owners of race tracks and their employees, stewards, trainers, judges, starters or special policeman, or to any manager, coach or trainer of any team or participant or prospective participant in any such game, contest or sport, any valuable thing with intent to influence him to lose or try to lose or cause to be lost or to limit his or his team's margin of victory, or in the case of a referee or other official to affect his decisions or the performance of his duties in any way, in a baseball, football, hockey or basketball game, boxing, tennis or polo match or a horse race or any professional or amateur sport, or game, in which such player or participant or jockey or driver or referee or other official, is taking part or expects to take part, or has any duty or connection therewith, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or by both.

1963, c. 18.

### § 608. Acceptance of bribes by participants

A professional or amateur baseball, football, hockey, basketball, tennis or polo player, boxer, or jockey, driver or groom or participant or prospective participant or referee or other official or prospective referee or other official in any sport or game or a manager, coach or trainer of any team or individual participant or prospective participant in any such game, contest or sport, who solicits or accepts any valuable thing to influence him to lose

or try to lose or cause to be lost or to limit his or his team's margin of victory, or in the case of a referee or other official to affect his decisions or the performance of his duties in any way, in a baseball, football, hockey or basketball game or boxing, tennis or polo match, or horse race or any game or sport in which he is taking part, or expects to take part, or has any duty or connection therewith, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months, or by both.

1963, c. 18.