

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## CHAPTER 55

**FORGERY AND COUNTERFEITING**

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**§ 1501. Forgery defined**

Whoever, with intent to defraud, falsely makes, alters, forges or counterfeits any public record or proceeding filed or entered in any court; or process issued, or purporting to be issued by a competent court, magistrate or officer; or attestation or certificate of any person required by law or receivable as legal proof in relation to any matter; or any charter, deed, will, testament, bond, writing obligatory, power of attorney, letter of credit, policy of insurance, bill of lading, bill of exchange, promissory note, order or acceptance, or indorsement or assignment thereof, or of any debt or contract; or acquittance, discharge or accountable receipt for anything of value; or a motor vehicle operator's license or registration certificate; or any other written instrument of another, or purporting to be such, by which any pecuniary demand or obligation or any right in any property is or purports to be created, increased, conveyed, transferred, diminished or discharged; and whoever utters and publishes as true any instrument before-mentioned, knowing it to be false, forged or counterfeit, with like intent, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 10 years.

R.S.1954, c. 133, § 1; 1955, c. 29.

**§ 1502. Fraudulent alterations of documents**

Whoever, with intent to defraud, totally erases or obliterates any record or other written instrument described in this chapter, fraudulently connects together different parts of several bank

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bills, notes or other written instruments so as to produce one, or alters the same in a material matter, is guilty of forgery and shall be punished as if such instrument had been forged and counterfeited.

R.S.1954, c. 133, § 2.

**§ 1503.    False certificates and fictitious signatures**

If any person, legally authorized to take the proof or acknowledgment of any instrument that by law may be recorded, willfully and falsely certifies that such proof or acknowledgment was duly made, or if any person fraudulently affixes a fictitious or pretended signature, purporting to be that of an officer or agent of a corporation, to any written instrument purporting to be a draft, note or other evidence of debt issued by such corporation, with intent to pass the same as true, although such person never was an officer or agent of such corporation or never existed, he is guilty of forgery and shall be punished as provided in section 1501.

R.S.1954, c. 133, § 3.

**§ 1504.    False stock certificates; pledges without authority**

If an officer or agent of a corporation willfully signs with intent to issue or issues any certificate purporting to be a certificate or other evidence of the ownership or of the transfer of any stock in such corporation, not authorized by its charter, bylaws or votes; or without such authority issues, sells or pledges such certificate or other evidence of ownership or transfer of stock after it is lawfully signed, he shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 and by imprisonment for not more than 10 years.

R.S.1954, c. 133, § 4.

**§ 1505.    Securities, bank bills and coins**

Whoever with intent to defraud falsely makes, alters, forges or counterfeits any public security issued in any form or purporting to be by authority of the United States, or any state, territory or dependency thereof; or any indorsement or writing purporting to be a transfer thereof; or any bank bill or promissory note issued or purporting to be issued by any bank or banking company in any state, territory or dependency of the United States, or in any foreign state, province or government; or any

gold or silver coin current in this State; and whoever has in his possession, at one time, 10 or more such forged or counterfeit public securities, notes or pieces of coin with intent to pass them, knowing them to be forged or counterfeit, shall be punished by imprisonment for life or for any term of years.

R.S.1954, c. 133, § 5.

**§ 1506. Illegal possession of counterfeits, uttering**

Whoever brings into the State, or has in his possession with intent to pass the same or with intent to defraud, utters or tenders in payment as true any such coins, bank bills, notes or public securities, as are described in section 1505, knowing them to be forged or counterfeit, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 3 years. Whoever, after being convicted of an offense described herein, is again convicted thereof or is convicted of 3 such distinct offenses at the same term of the court shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 3 years nor more than 10 years.

R.S.1954, c. 133, § 6.

**§ 1507. Foreign coins for exportation**

Whoever forges or counterfeits gold or silver coin of a foreign government or country, with intent to export the same for the purpose of defrauding any foreign government or its subject, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than 10 years.

R.S.1954, c. 133, § 7.

**§ 1508. Manufacture or possession of counterfeiting equipment; disposal**

Whoever makes or begins to make, mend, cast, stamp, engrave, mold or provide any plate, block, press, tool, instrument, paper or other material designed and adapted for making any false, forged or counterfeit coin, public securities, bank bills or notes mentioned in this chapter, or has the same in his possession partly or wholly made, with intent to use or permit them to be used for that purpose, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 3 years. All such tools, implements and materials shall be disposed of as provided in section 1813.

R.S.1954, c. 133, § 8.

**§ 1509. Proof of counterfeit public securities and bank bills**

In prosecutions for any offense described in this chapter relating to the bills or notes of any bank, if the president or cashier thereof resides out of the State or more than 40 miles from the place of trial, any other witness, acquainted with their signatures and with the difference between the true and counterfeit bills of such bank, may be admitted to prove them forged and counterfeit. If such prosecution relates to public securities, a certificate of the tenor of the genuine public security alleged to be forged or altered, made under oath by the Secretary of the Treasury, or Treasurer of the United States, or by the secretary or treasurer of any state by which such security purports to be issued, is evidence to prove them forged or altered.

R.S.1954, c. 133, § 9.

**§ 1510. Rewards**

The following rewards shall be paid to the person informing and prosecuting in the cases described below: \$60 for each person convicted and sentenced for either of the aforesaid offenses of forging and counterfeiting any coin, public security, bank bill or note; and \$40 for each person convicted and sentenced for either of the aforesaid offenses of possessing with intent to utter, or of knowingly uttering such coin, public security, bank bill or note. These rewards shall be paid by the Treasurer of State on warrant of the Governor and Council, granted on certificate of the judge who tried the case. Where there are 2 or more informers and prosecutors for the same offense, the reward shall be divided between them equally or in such proportions as said judge determines.

R.S.1954, c. 133, § 10.