

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 123

TRAMPS AND VAGRANTS

Sec.

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§ 3751. Begging

Whoever goes about from town to town or from place to place in any town, asking for food or shelter or begging or subsisting upon charity shall be deemed a tramp and be punished by imprisonment for not less than 30 days nor more than 10 months, at hard labor for 10 hours each day, Sundays excepted. Should any person so sentenced refuse to labor in accordance with this section, he shall be provided with no food except bread and water until he shall consent to labor in conformity with the requirements of this section. The District Court shall have original jurisdiction, concurrent with the Superior Court, of all offenses arising under this section.

R.S.1954, c. 137, § 33; 1963, c. 402, § 220.

§ 3752. Entering dwellings; kindling fires; carrying firearms

If a tramp enters a dwelling house, or kindles a fire in the highway, or on the land of another without the consent of the owner or occupant, or is found carrying any firearm or other dangerous weapon, or threatens to do injury to any person or to the real or personal estate of another, he shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labor for not more than 2 years.

R.S.1954, c. 137, § 34.

§ 3753. Injuries to persons or property

If a tramp willfully and maliciously does injury to any person or to the real or personal estate of another, he shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labor for not more than 5 years.

R.S.1954, c. 137, § 35.

§ 3754. Sleeping or lodging in barns and outbuildings

If any tramp, not resident in the State, sleeps or lodges in any barn or other outbuilding without consent of the owner or occupant, he shall be punished by a fine of \$20 and, in default of payment, shall be imprisoned at hard labor in the nearest work-jail for not less than 4 months for the first offense, and not less than 6 months for every subsequent offense. A nonresident committing any act of beggary or vagrancy shall be deemed a tramp and may be arrested by any officer and detained for not more than 24 hours until a warrant, issued on complaint of some resident of the State, can be obtained.

R.S.1954, c. 137, § 36.

§ 3755. Arrest by any citizen; exceptions

Any person, upon view of an offense described in sections 3751 to 3755, may apprehend the offender and take him before any competent magistrate for examination, but said sections shall not apply to any blind person or female or minor under the age of 14 years.

R.S.1954, c. 137, § 37.

§ 3756. Fees of officers; costs paid by State

The fees of officers and magistrates under section 3754 shall be the same as in case of common vagrants, except that the fees for commitment shall be \$1.50 for each day necessarily employed, and actual expenses of transportation. All costs incurred under said section shall be paid by the State, upon the order of the county commissioners, out of the State Pauper Fund, provided the Governor and Council are satisfied that the person confined is a tramp, having no pauper settlement in the State.

R.S.1954, c. 137, § 38.

§ 3757. Refusal to leave dwelling house on request

If any vagrant, tramp, beggar or other person who goes about from place to place asking or subsisting upon charity, or without means of support, having entered a dwelling house, remains therein to the terror or fright of any of its occupants, or refuses or neglects on request to depart, he shall be punished by imprisonment at labor for not more than 30 days in any jail, workhouse, house of correction or at any town farm or almshouse in the town in which the offense was committed and by a fine of

not more than \$10, and in default of payment, by imprisonment for an additional 30 days.

R.S.1954, c. 137, § 39.

§ 3758. Undesirable persons generally

All rogues, vagabonds and idle persons going about in any town in the county begging; persons using any subtle craft, jugglery or unlawful games or plays, or for the sake of gain pretending to have knowledge in physiognomy, palmistry, to tell destinies or fortunes, or to discover lost or stolen goods; common pipers, fiddlers, runaways, drunkards, nightwalkers, railers, brawlers and pilferers; persons wanton or lascivious in speech or behavior, or neglecting their callings or employments, mispending what they earn and not providing for the support of themselves and their families; all idle and disorderly persons having no visible means of support, neglecting all lawful calling or employment; and all idle and disorderly persons who neglect all lawful calling or employment and misspend their time by frequenting disorderly houses, houses of ill fame or gaming houses may, on complaint under oath before the District Court in the division where he is a resident, be committed to jail or to the house of correction in the town where the person belongs or is found, for a term of not more than 90 days.

R.S.1954, c. 137, § 41; 1963, c. 402, § 221.