

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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TITLE 27
LIBRARIES, HISTORY, CULTURE
AND ART

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CHAPTER 1
STATE LIBRARY

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SUBCHAPTER I
STATE LIBRARIAN

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§ 1. Salary; duties

The Maine State Library shall be under the management and supervision of a State Librarian, as heretofore appointed, who shall make such rules and regulations as are necessary for the

proper management of the library and the safety of its contents. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint such librarian who shall serve for a term of 4 years, and until his successor is duly appointed and qualified. The librarian shall receive such salary as shall be set by the Governor and Council.

The librarian may employ, subject to the Personnel Law, a deputy state librarian, and such assistants as the business of the office may require.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 1.

§ 2. Contents; exchange

There shall be procured and kept in the State Library digests, law reports and public laws of the United States and of the several states; English and Canadian law reports, digests and laws; general works of law and practice; histories of all countries, including those of this State, its counties and towns; family histories; works on the arts and sciences with special reference to agriculture, forestry, fishing, manufacturers, shipbuilding and road making; maps, charts, plans and manuscripts, statistical and other publications relating to the financial, social, religious and educational condition of the world and more especially to this State, as fast as means are furnished by the State therefor; full and complete sets of all the documents printed by the State; and full and complete sets of the reports of the towns, cities and counties of this State. For the purpose of carrying out this section the library may conduct a system of exchanges with other libraries and institutions of learning.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 2.

§ 3. Books lent

Under such rules and regulations as the State Librarian may prescribe, books and documents may be lent to any responsible resident of the State. Such rules and regulations may include the charge for lending traveling libraries and for overdue books and documents.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 4.

§ 4. Responsibility for books borrowed

Any person or organization receiving the loan of any books, documents or other material from the Maine State Library shall

be responsible for the full value thereof to the librarian, and in case of the loss of or damage to a volume belonging to a set, shall procure a new volume or be responsible for the value of the set. If any person or organization shall neglect or fail to return any books, documents or other material lent to them, or shall return the same in an injured or mutilated condition, after due demand and notice, the librarian may maintain a civil action against such person or organization for the full value thereof. Actions to enforce the liability mentioned in this section may be brought by the librarian in his own name in behalf of the State, and in case of his death or removal, the action shall be prosecuted by his successor.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 6; 1961, c. 317, § 90.

§ 5. Biennial report

The State Librarian shall report to the Legislature biennially the receipts and expenditures on account of the library, the number of acquisitions during the 2 preceding years, specifying those obtained by purchase, donation and exchange and shall make in such report suggestions in relation to the improvement of the library.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 14; 1955, c. 185, § 3.

§ 6. Reports from counties, cities and towns

Town clerks of the several towns, city clerks of the several cities and treasurers of the several counties shall promptly transmit to the librarian of the Maine State Library copies of all printed reports of said towns, cities and counties, including all printed exhibits of town, city and county expenditures.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 15.

SUBCHAPTER II

OPERATION AND SERVICES

Sec.

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34. Library extension.
35. Traveling libraries.
36. Advice to local libraries; gifts; schools of library instruction.
37. Bookmobile service.
38. Compliance with federal law.

§ 31. Library hours

The State Librarian shall keep the library open from 9 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon on every day, except Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. Neither the State Director of Public Improvements nor any of the state employees under his jurisdiction shall admit anyone to the library rooms out of library hours or permit any book to be taken therefrom without the consent of the librarian.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 3; 1959, c. 363, § 33.

§ 32. Historical research

As a part of the general duties of his office, the State Librarian shall maintain a section of historical research which shall have charge of all Maine historical work in the library and carry on research work relating to the history of the State.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 7.

§ 33. Legislative reference

The State Librarian shall maintain in the library a legislative reference section which shall collect, arrange and place on file books, pamphlets and other material relating to legislation, shall prepare abstracts of laws in other states and present such other information as may be useful and necessary to the Legislature in the performance of its legislative duties.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 8.

§ 34. Library extension

The State Librarian shall maintain a section of library extension which shall carry on such activities as are enumerated in sections 35 and 36.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 9.

§ 35. Traveling libraries

When the officers of any library or association or any individual shall apply to the State Librarian, he may, from books purchased and kept for the purpose, lend to such library, association or individual one or more traveling libraries. Books so lent are to be, in turn, lent free of charge to the patrons of such library or to the citizens of the towns where such library, or association or individual is located.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 5.

§ 36. Advice to local libraries; gifts; schools of library instruction

The Maine State Library shall give advice to all school, state, institutional, public and county law libraries, and to all communities in the State which may propose to establish libraries, as to the best means of establishing and administering them, selecting and cataloging books and other details of library management, and may send its employees to aid in organizing such libraries or assist in the improvement of those already established. It may receive gifts of money, books or other property which may be used or held in trust for the purpose or purposes given. It may publish lists and circulars of information and may cooperate with the libraries and commissions of other states in the publication of documents in order to secure the most economical administration of its work. It may conduct courses or schools of library instruction and hold librarians' institutes in various parts of the State, and cooperate with others in such schools or institutes. It shall perform such other library service as it may consider for the best interests of the citizens of the State.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 11; 1955, c. 185, § 2.

§ 37. Bookmobile service

In furtherance of, and in addition to, the powers given in section 36, the State Librarian is authorized and empowered to provide bookmobile service for residents of the State, especially to rural schools and farm homes.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 13.

§ 38. Compliance with federal law

The State Librarian, with the approval of the Governor and Council, may make any regulations necessary to enable the State to comply with any law of the United States, heretofore or hereafter enacted, intended to promote public library services. The Treasurer of State shall be custodian of any money that may be allotted by the Federal Government for general public library services.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 12.

SUBCHAPTER III

DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS AND RECORDS

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63. Price.
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68. Records of vital statistics distributed.

§ 61. Maine Reports

A copy of the printed decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court, commonly called Maine Reports, and of the advance sheets, which are purchased by the State in accordance with Title 4, section 702, shall be distributed by the State Librarian to the following: Each county law library, college library, county attorney, judge of probate, register of probate, clerk of courts, District Court, Councilor, Senator and Representative from Maine in the Congress of the United States, Justice and ex-justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, Justice and ex-justice of the Superior Court; the Governor, Judge of the United States District Court for Maine, United States District Attorney for Maine, Clerk of the United States District Court for Maine, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the first circuit.

Copies shall be sent, on an exchange basis, to the Library of Congress, secretary of the Maine State Bar Association, the Supreme Court Library of Canada, and to each state or territorial library in the United States.

Upon request of administrative officers thereof copies shall be placed in each state department or institution.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 20; 1955, c. 185, § 8.

§ 62. Distribution and sale

All printed copies of Revised Statutes, supplements thereto, and session laws shall be delivered by the printer to the State Librarian for distribution and for sale, in accordance with sections 63 and 65.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 22; 1955, c. 185, § 9.

§ 63. Price

The State Librarian, subject to the approval of the Governor and Council, shall fix the price at which the printed volumes of a revision of the statutes, and supplements thereto, or those containing the laws passed at a session of the Legislature, may be sold and delivered, and shall thereafter make sales at the price so fixed.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 23; 1953, c. 425, § 1; 1955, c. 185, §§ 10, 16.

§ 64. Disposition of proceeds

All proceeds from such sales shall be deposited to the credit of the General Fund of the State.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 24.

§ 65. Recipients authorized

A copy of all compilations or revisions of the statutes, and supplements thereto, and the laws passed by each Legislature shall be sold and delivered at $\frac{1}{2}$ the established price to the following: Each free public library, county law library, college library, municipality, county attorney, clerk of courts, county commissioners' court, sheriff, county treasurer, register of deeds, register of probate, judge of probate, Justice and ex-justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, Justice and ex-justice of the Superior Court, District Court, ex-governor, Councilor, the Governor, Reporter of Decisions, Judge of the United States District Court for Maine, United States District Attorney for Maine, Clerk of the United States District Court for Maine, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the first circuit, Maine Historical Society.

The Legislature and state administrative departments, bureaus, agencies and commissions may purchase more than one such copy for legislative and administrative purposes.

Copies shall be sent, on an exchange basis, to the Library of Congress, secretary of the Maine State Bar Association, the Supreme Court Library of Canada and to each state or territorial library in the United States.

One copy of the laws passed by each session of the Legislature shall be given to each member thereof, the Secretary of the Senate, the Assistant Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House, the Assistant Clerk of the House, and each Senator and Representative from Maine in the Congress of the United States.

One copy of the latest revision of the statutes and the current supplement thereto shall be given to each member of the Legislature who has not previously received such a copy as a member of a Legislature which met in regular session after the effective date of such revision of the statutes.

The remaining copies of the statutes, and supplements thereto, and the laws shall be held in the library for exchange or library use, except as otherwise provided by law.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 25; 1953, c. 427, §§ 1, 3; 1955, c. 185, §§ 11, 16.

§ 66. Reports of departments and institutions

The State Librarian shall distribute reports of the departments and institutions of the State and other books and documents published or purchased by the State in such manner as the law may direct. He may transmit one copy of each published report of each department of the State Government to each library in the State and to the libraries of other states and territories, and make such other and further distribution as in his judgment seems proper. He shall maintain a document room in which shall be stored all department reports and other publications of the State intended for distribution and shall keep an accurate account of all books and documents received.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 26.

§ 67. Published records of vital statistics purchased

Whenever the record of the births, marriages and deaths of any town in the State, previous to the year 1892, beginning at the very earliest date, shall be collected from church records, church registers, records of clergymen, family Bibles, public records and other available sources, and shall be printed and verified in the manner required by the standing committee of the Maine Historical Society, under the editorship of some person selected by said committee, whose services shall be rendered free and without any compensation, and the work shall appear to them to have been prepared with accuracy, the librarian of the State Library shall purchase 150 copies of such record at a price not exceeding 2¢ per page provided that the written copies of the town records shall become the property of the State and shall be deposited in the office of the Registrar of Vital Statistics. Not more than \$3,000 shall be expended by authority of this section in any one year.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 27.

§ 68. Records of vital statistics distributed

The records of vital statistics so purchased shall be distributed by the State Librarian as follows: To each registry of deeds in the State, and to such libraries and historical societies as may wish to receive them. The remainder shall be kept by the librarian for exchange and library use.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 28.