

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## CHAPTER 3

**MERIDIAN LINES AND STANDARDS  
OF LENGTH**

## Sec.

- 1151. Meridian line; record.
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**§ 1151. Meridian line; record**

The county commissioners, at the expense of their several counties, shall erect and forever maintain therein at such place or places remote from electrical disturbances as the public convenience requires, a true meridian line to be perpetuated by stone pillars with brass or copper points firmly fixed on the tops thereof, indicating the true range of such meridian; and shall protect the same and provide a book of records to be kept by the clerk of courts or by a person appointed by them nearer to such structure and accessible to all persons wishing to refer thereto.

R.S.1954, c. 89, § 89.

**§ 1152. Care and custody**

The structures referred to in section 1151 shall be under the care and custody of such clerk. Any surveyor residing in said county or engaged in surveying therein shall have free access thereto for the purpose of testing the variation of the magnetic needle.

R.S.1954, c. 89, § 90.

**§ 1153. Annual verification of compass; record of needle declination**

When the meridian lines provided for in section 1151 have been established and completed, every land surveyor shall, at least annually before making any survey, test and verify his compass or other instrument using the magnetic needle by the

meridian line so established in the county where his surveys are to be made and shall enter the declination of such needle from the true meridian in the book mentioned in section 1151, together with the style and make of such instrument and its number, if any, and the date and hour of observation and subscribe his name thereto for future reference; and shall insert corresponding entries as to date and declination in his field notebooks, which field notebooks shall also show dates at which his surveys are made. Neglect or refusal to comply with this section shall render such surveyor liable to a penalty of \$25 for each neglect, to be recovered on complaint in the county where any survey is made, half to the complainant and half to the county. This section shall not apply to such surveys as are made by angles from some fixed, permanent line or by a solar instrument and independent of the magnetic needle.

R.S.1954, c. 89, § 91.

### § 1154. Standards of length; verification of tape or chain

The county commissioners, at the expense of the several counties, shall erect and forever maintain therein, at such place or places as the public convenience may require, a standard of length of not less than 100 feet with suitable subdivisions marked thereon. Such standard may consist of stone monuments permanently fixed with metal plates on the tops thereof, properly marked and protected, or of a steel bar of the necessary length properly marked and suitably placed and protected. All such standards shall be made to correspond with the standard of the United States Bureau of Weights and Measures and shall be provided with proper means for determining the tension of tapes or chains during comparison. They shall be under the care and custody of the clerk of courts, who shall keep a suitable book for the record of comparisons, and they shall be accessible to any person for comparing any tape, chain or other linear measure. Every surveyor shall before making surveys in this State and at least annually compare his tape or chain used in such surveys with the standard in the county in which he resides or in which surveys are to be made, and shall record the result in the book provided for that purpose, giving description of such tape or chain with the difference, if any, between the same and such standard, together with the date and temperature and the tension on such tape or chain at the time of comparison. When such standard shall have been completed in any county, any surveyor residing or making surveys in such county who shall neglect or refuse to comply with

the terms of this section shall be liable to the penalties and disability set forth in section 1153.

R.S.1954, c. 89, § 92.

**§ 1155. Appointment of commissioners to verify meridians**

When the meridian line or standard of length is established, repaired or rebuilt in any county, the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council shall appoint a competent commissioner, not necessarily a resident of this State, to inspect and verify the same. Such commissioner shall in case of a meridian line verify the same by astronomical observation and in his report shall give an accurate description of such structures, its latitude and longitude and the declination of the needle at the time, and in case of a standard of length shall give a description of the structure, its location and exact length as determined by comparison with some authentic standard from the United States Bureau of Weights and Measures. All such reports shall be full and accurate and be deposited in the office of the Secretary of State and a certified copy shall be filed and recorded in the office of the clerk of courts in the county where such structure is situated. Such commissioner shall receive from the State such just compensation as the Governor and Council shall allow.

R.S.1954, c. 89, § 93.

**§ 1156. Injury to meridians; penalty**

Whoever willfully displaces, alters, defaces, breaks or otherwise injures any of the pillars or points, plates, enclosures, bars, locks, bolts or any part of the structure of any meridian line or standard of length shall forfeit not more than \$100, to be recovered by indictment,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to the prosecutor and  $\frac{1}{2}$  to the county, and shall be liable in a civil action for the amount necessarily expended in repairing damages caused by his act.

R.S.1954, c. 89, § 94; 1961, c. 317, § 226.

**§ 1157. Exception**

This chapter shall not apply to the County of Kennebec.  
1955, c. 108.