

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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PART 3

PLANTATIONS AND UNORGANIZED
PLACES

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CHAPTER 401

PLANTATIONS

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§ 5601. Census of larger unincorporated townships

Commissioners of counties containing unincorporated townships may, at the expiration of every period of 5 years from March, 1861, determine from the United States census, when taken the preceding year and by actual enumeration when not so taken, what townships have not less than 200 inhabitants, and

make a suitable description and designation thereof and return them to the Secretary of State, to be by him recorded.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 1.

§ 5602. Organization of larger townships

Immediately after making the return provided by section 5601, said commissioners shall issue, if they deem it feasible, their warrant to one of the principal inhabitants of each of such unincorporated townships, commanding him to notify the inhabitants thereof qualified to vote for Governor, to assemble on a day and at a place named in the warrant, to choose a moderator, clerk, 3 assessors, treasurer, collector of taxes, constable, superintending school committee and other necessary plantation officers. Notice of such meeting shall be given by posting an attested copy of the warrant therefor in 2 public and conspicuous places in the township 14 days before the day of meeting. The warrant with such inhabitant's return thereon shall be returned to the meeting and the above-named officers shall be chosen and sworn.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 2.

§ 5603. Organization of less populous townships

Any unincorporated or unorganized place containing any number of inhabitants may be organized as follows: One or more of the county commissioners, on written application signed by 3 or more persons qualified to be voters, inhabitants of any unincorporated or unorganized place in their county, may issue a warrant to one of them, requiring him to warn a meeting of the voters of such place residing within the limits described in the warrant, or, when a state or county tax is laid on such place, the Treasurer of State or said commissioners, without application therefor, may issue such warrant to one of the principal inhabitants of such place. In either case the warrant, notice of meeting and proceedings therein shall be the same as provided in section 5602.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 3.

§ 5604. Organization meeting

At the time and place appointed for meetings for the organization of plantations under sections 5602 and 5603, a moderator shall be chosen by ballot by the voters present to preside at such meeting, and the person to whom the warrant was directed shall

preside until such moderator is chosen and by such person sworn. A clerk, 3 assessors, treasurer and superintending school committee shall be chosen by ballot and sworn by the moderator or a justice of the peace. Other plantation officers may be chosen by ballot or other method agreed on by vote of the meeting, and shall be sworn as above named.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 4.

§ 5605. Copy of proceedings and description of plantation sent to Secretary of State

Upon the organization of a plantation, the clerk and assessors shall transmit to the Secretary of State, to be by him recorded, a certified copy of all proceedings had in effecting such organization, including the petition if any, the warrant issued therefor and the return thereon, and the record of the meeting held in pursuance thereof and a written description of the limits of the plantation, and thereupon all laws applicable to organized plantations shall apply to plantations organized as herein provided.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 5; 1961, c. 158.

§ 5606. Perambulation of boundary lines

Sections 2001 and 2002, which contain perambulation provisions for town lines, apply equally to plantations.

1957, c. 405, § 17.

§ 5607. Annual meeting

Organized plantations shall hold their annual meeting in March and choose a clerk, 3 assessors, treasurer, collector of taxes, constable, superintending school committee, one or more surveyors of lumber and 2 or more fence-viewers. When money is raised for repair of ways and bridges, the assessors of such plantation shall choose one or more road commissioners as selectmen of towns do.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 6.

§ 5608. Officers' names sent to Secretary of State

Clerks of organized plantations shall make return to the Secretary of State on blanks by him furnished for that purpose on or before the first day of September, annually, of the names of the assessors and clerks of their several plantations, and that the

same have been sworn. When such return is not made by any such plantation, the Secretary of State shall not furnish it with blanks for election returns, and no votes purporting to be cast by such plantation shall be counted or allowed by the Governor and Council. When a plantation is organized after the first day of July, such return is not required to be made by the clerk thereof during that year, but the votes of such plantations shall not be counted or allowed by the Governor and Council for any purpose, during the year of its organization, unless it is organized at least 60 days prior to the Tuesday following the first Monday of November.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 7; 1959, c. 204, § 32.

§ 5609. Town law applies to officers

Laws relating to calling, notifying and conducting town meetings and to the election, appointment, qualification, duties, powers, compensation, liabilities and penalties for official neglect and misconduct of town officers apply to plantations and their officers, so far as applicable thereto, except when specially otherwise provided. Voters in plantations are liable to the same penalties for unlawful voting as voters in towns.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 8.

§ 5610. Duties of officers

Assessors of plantations shall be considered the selectmen thereof for the purpose of performing such duties as selectmen of towns perform. Treasurers, collectors and constables of plantations shall give such bond as such officers of towns are required to give, to be approved in like manner. The valuation of property for the assessment of taxes in plantations, as well as the assessment, collection and disposal thereof, shall be the same as in towns.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 9.

§ 5611. Inventory of polls and estates; basis of taxation; money for ways

The assessors first chosen in plantations organized under section 5602 shall immediately take an inventory of the polls and valuation of the property therein, as the same are taken in towns, and return them on or before the 15th day of May following their election to the county commissioners of their county,

who may examine and correct the same so as to make it conform to the last state valuation, and return a copy of such corrected valuation to the Treasurer of State, and thereupon their ratable proportion according to such valuation of all state and county taxes shall be assessed on such plantations in the same manner as on towns. Such plantations, and such as may by special order of the Legislature be required to pay state or county taxes, may raise money by taxation for making and repairing ways in compliance with Title 23, sections 2001 and 3302. Such inventory and valuation in any plantation shall be so taken, corrected and returned to the Treasurer of State, whenever required by him.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 10.

§ 5612. Decoration of veterans' graves on Memorial Day

Section 3602, which requires municipalities to decorate the graves of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States of America on Memorial Day, applies equally to plantations.

1957, c. 405, § 19.

§ 5613. Indebtedness; temporary loans

Plantations may borrow money in anticipation of taxes and issue general obligation securities in the manner provided for in chapter 241.

1959, c. 19, § 3.

§ 5614. Money for schools and poor

All plantations may raise and expend money for the support of schools and making and repairing schoolhouses, as provided in Title 20, section 851, and for support of the poor, as provided in Title 22, section 4489, and for sums necessary for legal plantation expenses.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 11; 1957, c. 429, § 85.

§ 5615. Accounting and postaudit provisions

Sections 5251 to 5254 and 5256, which contain accounting and postaudit provisions for towns, apply equally to plantations.

1957, c. 405, § 16.

§ 5616. Organized plantations to consist of one township

Organized plantations shall not be composed of more than one township, and when organized under section 5602, former organizations cease.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 12.

§ 5617. First valuation

When towns are incorporated, the assessors thereof shall return to the county commissioners of their county the original valuation first taken in their towns, on or before the 15th day of May next following their incorporation, and said valuation shall be examined, corrected and a copy thereof returned to the Treasurer of State, to become the basis of state and county taxes in the same manner as the valuations of plantations, as provided in section 5611.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 13.

§ 5618. Valuation neglected; assessors appointed

If such valuation is not made and returned by any town or plantation within the time specified, the county commissioners shall appoint 3 suitable persons of the county to be assessors therein, who shall be sworn and make and return the inventory and valuation required within the time fixed by said commissioners. Such valuation shall be examined, corrected and a copy thereof returned to the Treasurer of State and become a basis for the assessment of state and county taxes, in the same manner as if the valuation had been taken by the assessors chosen by said town or plantation.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 14.

§ 5619. Assessors paid by county commissioners

Assessors appointed under section 5618 shall be paid from the county treasury a reasonable compensation for their services, to be determined by the county commissioners, and any sum so paid shall be added to the county tax apportioned to such town or plantation and shall be collected and paid into the treasury in the same manner as county taxes.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 15.

§ 5620. Plantations reorganized

Plantations organized upon application of 3 or more inhabitants may at any time be reorganized under this chapter.

R.S.1954, c. 101, § 16.