

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 177

DUTIES OF TELEGRAPH COMPANIES

Sec.

2441. Telegraph companies to keep offices in certain places.
2442. Liability for delays and errors; falsifying or divulging contents of dispatch.
2443. Liability for fraud; common law liabilities.

§ 2441. Telegraph companies to keep offices in certain places

Every corporation doing business in the State as a telegraph company shall maintain an office in every city or town containing 12,000 inhabitants or more where, under any circumstances, it undertakes to serve, in any way, the citizens of said town. Such office shall be located in the business portion of every such town and easy of access to the public, and shall be open for the reception and transmission of messages from 8 o'clock in the forenoon to 8 o'clock in the afternoon in every secular day. The delivery of messages shall be without cost to the party to whom they are addressed when delivered within a radius of one mile from said office.

R.S.1954, c. 50, § 33.

§ 2442. Liability for delays and errors; falsifying or divulging contents of dispatch

A person or company owning or using a line of telegraph, wholly or partly in the State, for any error or unnecessary delay in writing out, transmitting or delivering a dispatch within its delivery limits, making it less valuable to the person interested therein, is liable for the whole amount paid on such dispatch. All dispatches shall be transmitted in the order in which they are received, under a penalty of \$100 to be recovered by the person whose dispatch is willfully postponed. An operator or agent who designedly falsifies a dispatch forfeits not less than \$20 nor more than \$100, to be recovered in a civil action, and in case of his avoidance or inability to pay such judgment, the person or company employing him forfeits a like sum. If such operator or agent willfully divulges any part of the contents of a private dispatch entrusted to him for transmission or delivery, he shall be

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punished by a fine of not more than \$100 or by imprisonment for not more than 3 months.

R.S.1954, c. 50, § 34; 1961, c. 317, § 124.

§ 2443. Liability for fraud; common law liabilities

Nothing herein exonerates telegraph operators, agents, clerks or other officers from liability for fraud committed or attempted by means of telegraphic communication; or the company from any liability existing at common law for the neglect or wrongdoing of such company or its agents.

R.S.1954, c. 50, § 35.