

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1838.

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 11.

HOUSE.

STATE OF MAINE.



IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED
AND THIRTY-[EIGHT.]

AN ADDITIONAL ACT concerning Meeting Houses.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and
2 House of Representatives in Legislature assem-
3 bled, That when any Meeting-house or house of
4 public worship in this State, shall be owned by
5 persons of different religious denominations, [any
6 one or more] of such owners, being of the minor-
7 ity, may apply to any Justice of the Peace and
8 Quorum in the County where such house is situa-
9 ted, to obtain a division of the time of occupying
10 said house; and on such application it shall be the
11 duty of such Justice to call a meeting of the own-
12 ers of said house, by posting up in some conspicu-
13 ous place in or about said house, a notice thereof,
14 thirty days at least prior to said meeting, said no-
15 tice setting forth the time, place and purposes of
16 said meeting.*

SECT. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall be
 2 the duty of said Justice, when applied to for the
 3 purpose aforesaid, to notify two other Justices of
 4 said County to attend said meeting; and the said
 5 three Justices, all of whom shall be disinterested
 6 in the premises, shall constitute a board, before
 7 which said [owner or] owners may exhibit the
 8 amount owned by them in said house, in no case
 9 to be less than ten pews, and the minority wishing
 10 to occupy said house some part of the time shall
 11 have that part allotted to them and decreed as near-
 12 ly as may be in proportion to the amount owned in
 13 said house by said minority; and said board shall
 14 designate precisely which weeks in each year said
 15 minority may occupy said house.

SECT. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall also
 2 be the duty of said board to appraise, according to
 3 their best skill and judgment, the value of that
 4 portion of said house owned by said minority, and
 5 to make a true record of their proceedings, and to
 6 cause the same within ten days next after said
 7 meeting, to be transcribed into the books of record
 8 kept in and for the city, town or plantation where
 9 said Meeting-house is situated. And all reasona-
 10 ble expense of said board shall be paid by said
 11 [person or] persons [at whose request] said divis-
 12 ion has been made: *Provided* this act shall not af-
 13 fect any agreement now existing in relation to oc-

14 cupying any house of public worship in this State.

SECT 4. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall be
2 lawful for said minority to enter and occupy such
3 house for such part of the time as has been allot-
4 ted to them by said board, unless the majority shall
5 choose to buy out said minority, and then in that
6 case said majority shall have the right so to buy,
7 by paying to said minority the sum at which their
8 portion of said house shall have been appraised by
9 the board aforesaid.

SECT. 5. *Be it further enacted,* That all acts and
2 parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of
3 this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
FEB. 10, 1838. }

ORDERED, That three hundred copies of this Bill be
printed for the use of the House.

(Extract from the Journal.)

Attest.

GEO. C. GETCHELL, Clerk.