

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE,  
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OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1841.

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**Augusta:**  
SEVERANCE AND DORR, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1841.

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**TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.**

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**NO. 9.**

**SENATE.**

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**R E S O L V E S**

RELATING TO

**THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.**

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**SEVERANCE & DORR,.....Printers to the State.**



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## STATE OF MAINE.

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### RESOLVES relating to Public Domain.

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RESOLVED, That the Public Domain was purchased  
2 with the blood and treasure of the people of the United  
3 States, and that all the States composing the Union have  
4 a joint and equal right and interest in and to that Domain;  
5 that their title thereto rests upon the original foundation of  
6 the Union, as well as upon the forms of cession and the  
7 mode of acquisition; and that all legislation by the General  
8 Government, on the subject, from the establishment of the  
9 Constitution to the present time, has recognized these prin-  
10 ciples, and has been based upon that ground.

RESOLVED, That this Domain is of vast and increas-  
2 ing value, and is capable of being made productive of great  
3 advantage to the people of our common country, and their  
4 posterity; that in common with our fellow citizens of  
5 other States, and whether for peace or for war, we have,  
6 in that rich Domain, a resource of immense and almost  
7 incalculable value, if rightly improved, for a long time to  
8 come; and that all present or prospective legislation, in re-  
9 lation thereto, should be equal and impartial—cautious  
10 while liberal—tempering magnanimity with wisdom.

RESOLVED, That the General Government is the best  
2 guardian of so important an interest as the Public Domain ;  
3 and that such legislation, with regard to its revenues and  
4 proceeds, as should produce the most equal and permanent  
5 participation in the joint fund, among those mutually con-  
6 cerned therein, would, in our view, best secure its fair and  
7 equitable appropriation.

RESOLVED, That any law relinquishing to any of the  
2 States in the Union the Public Lands within their limits,  
3 without a just and fair equivalent, would be manifestly  
4 unequal and partial in its operation, contrary to the spirit of  
5 the Federal compact, and a violation of the true rights of  
6 the whole people.

RESOLVED, That such legislation on this subject as,  
2 keeping in view the great principle of joint and equal right,  
3 should best promote the speedy sale of the Public Lands,  
4 on the lowest reasonable terms, to actual settlers and  
5 cultivators, would, in our opinion, most conduce to the best  
6 interest and advantage of all the people of all the States,  
7 collectively and individually.

RESOLVED, That we join in deprecating all attempts to  
2 connect the question of the Public Lands with party poli-  
3 tics, and to make it subservient to political purposes ; and  
4 that we invoke the good faith and justice of Congress to  
5 execute with fidelity the trust reposed in the Federal Le-  
6 gislature.

RESOLVED, That in case of any Act being passed by  
2 Congress for the distribution of the proceeds of the Public

3 Lands among the several States, this State hereby pledges  
4 and offers to surrender, or consents and engages to appro-  
5 priate, the proportion thereof that may accrue to this State,  
6 to works and purposes of national defence, under the direc-  
7 tion of the General Government, to all the extent that may  
8 be required, for the protection of this northeastern part of  
9 the Union.

RESOLVED, That a copy of these Resolutions be for-  
2 warded to each of our Senators and Representatives in  
3 Congress, to be laid before their respective branches; and  
4 a copy thereof be also communicated to the President of  
5 the United States, and one to each of the Governors of  
6 the several States of the Union, with a request to lay the  
7 same before the Legislatures of said States.





STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 22, 1841.

The foregoing Resolves were laid on the table, and 1000 copies ordered for the use of the Legislature.

[Extract from the Journal.]

ATTEST,

DANIEL SANBORN, *Secretary.*