

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1855.

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AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & BLAINE, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1855.

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# THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 15.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED  
AND FIFTY-FIVE.

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AN ACT for the promotion of Medical Science in the  
State of Maine.

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :*

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of any warden,  
2 superintendent, governor or commissioner of the alms  
3 house departments, or other officer having any charge  
4 of any of the prisons, penitentiaries or alms house de-  
5 partments of the State, supported entirely at the pub-  
6 lic expense, and of the overseers of the poor of any  
7 town, and the mayor and aldermen of any city in this  
8 State, to deliver to any regular chartered medical col-  
9 lege or school in this State, or on application from  
10 the trustees or teachers thereof, or any regular physi-

11 cian duly qualified according to law, for the purposes  
12 of medical or surgical study, the remains or bodies of  
13 any persons dying in any of the aforesaid institutions,  
14 under the charge of said officers, or the remains or  
15 bodies of such persons as are required to be buried at  
16 public expense, within their respective towns or cities,  
17 to be by them used in this State for the advancement  
18 of anatomical and physiological science, the preference  
19 in all cases to be given to medical schools or colleges  
20 established in this State as aforesaid, for their use in  
21 the instruction of students: Provided, that the said  
22 person so dying shall not have requested to be buried,  
23 or shall not have been claimed or demanded for inter-  
24 ment by any relative or friend of said deceased person  
25 within twenty-four hours after death, and satisfying the  
26 proper authority thereof; in which case said remains  
27 shall not be so delivered but shall be interred in the  
28 usual manner.

SECT. 2. No person who may be known to have  
2 relatives, whether near or abroad, and no one confined  
3 for debt, or as a witness, or on suspicion of crime, and  
4 no proper traveller, shall be delivered for the purposes  
5 aforesaid; but shall be buried in the usual manner;

6 and it shall be the duty of said wardens and said other  
7 officers to faithfully protect the rights of humanity,  
8 which these provisions are intended to secure.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of the said teachers  
2 of said schools and colleges and said physicians to  
3 provide for the interment and to inter in proper coffins  
4 and appropriate cemeteries, the remains of all bodies  
5 after they shall have answered the objects of this act ;  
6 and that the expenses of said interment shall be paid  
7 by said teachers and physicians ; and for any viola-  
8 tion of this provision, they shall, on conviction, forfeit  
9 for the benefit of the *poor*, not less than twenty-five  
10 or more than fifty dollars. And any *overseer* of the  
11 *poor* in the town in which such forfeiture shall be  
12 incurred, may prosecute for, and recover the same.

SECT. 4. The remains or bodies of such as may be  
2 delivered to the medical schools, colleges or physicians  
3 as aforesaid, shall be used for the purposes described  
4 in this act, in *this State only*, and whoever shall re-  
5 move such remains beyond the limits of this State,  
6 shall, on conviction thereof, be adjudged guilty of a  
7 criminal offence, and shall be imprisoned in the *State*

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8 *prison* in this State, for a term of not less than *one*  
9 *year*.

SECT. 5. All acts inconsistent with this act, are  
2 hereby repealed, and this act shall take effect from and  
3 after its approval by the governor.

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STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 28, 1855. }

ORDERED, That 350 copies of the foregoing bill, reported by the  
Committee on the Judiciary, be printed for the use of the Legislature.

H. K. BAKER, *Clerk*.