

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

A. D. 1858.



AUGUSTA:

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1858.

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.]

[No. 8.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT additional to chapter twelve of the Revised
Statutes, respecting Parishes and Religious Societies,

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

SECTION 1. Whenever the funds required for the
2 support of the public ministry of religion, in any par-
3 ish, are raised by an assessment upon the pews or seats,
4 according to the provisions of chapter twelve of the
5 Revised Statutes, the moneys so raised shall be ap-
6 propriated for the maintenance of religious worship,
7 in said parish, in such manner as a majority of the
8 pew-holders present and voting at any legal meet-
9 ing, shall determine.

SECT. 2. Any person owning a seat or pew in the
2 house of worship of any territorial parish, which seat
3 or pew is not customarily occupied by him, or his
4 family, or by some person or persons holding under
5 him, and who may be dissatisfied with the action of
6 the parish under the first section of this act, shall
7 have the right to sell his seat or pew to the parish;
8 and if he cannot agree with the assessors of the par-
9 ish upon a price for said pew, the price shall be
10 ascertained and determined in the following manner:

11 The pew-holder shall designate one discreet and
12 disinterested appraiser, the assessors of the parish
13 a second, and these two a third, which three shall
14 proceed to estimate the value of said seat or pew,
15 and to fix a price for the same; and the assessors, in
16 behalf of the parish, shall, at the expiration of one
17 month after the fixing of the price, as aforesaid, pur-
18 chase and pay for said seat or pew, at the price agreed
19 upon by the appraisers; provided always, that the
20 pew-holder, if he shall so elect, may, at any time
21 before the expiration of the month aforesaid, dispose
22 of his pew at private sale, or at auction to the highest
23 bidder.

SECT. 3. Every male citizen of the United States,
2 of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, except

3 persons under guardianship, and persons who are
4 members of other parishes, having his residence
5 established within the limits of any territorial parish
6 in this State, shall be entitled to vote in the affairs
7 thereof; but the right of voting aforesaid shall not
8 be exercised, unless he shall have paid taxes in the
9 parish, according to the provisions and requirements
10 of this act, and of chapter twelve of the Revised
11 Statutes, for the year next preceding the meeting at
12 which he shall present his vote.

SECT. 4. The provisions of this act shall not ap-
2 ply to those parishes, or to those cases, in which
3 persons, of different religious denominations, have
4 united in building a house of worship, with the in-
5 tention and agreement, that said house may be occu-
6 pied by each of the denominations thus uniting, an
7 equitable portion of the time.

SECT. 5. This act shall take effect, and be in force,
2 from and after its approval by the governor.

AMENDMENT.

A.

Amend section two, by striking out the words, "shall have the right to," in the sixth and seventh lines of the same, and inserting thereof the word *may*.

Also, further amend the same in 16th line, by striking out the words, "shall at the expiration of," and inserting in their place the words *may within*.

Also, amend same by striking out all after the word pew-holder in twentieth line, and inserting in the place thereof the following words, to wit:

Shall not be obliged by reason of such proceedings, to convey said seat or pew; and provided further, that if the parish shall refuse to take and pay for the said seat or pew, at the price so fixed, no assessment made, after such pew-holder shall have designated an appraiser and notified the assessors thereof, shall be valid; so that as amended, the section should read as follows:

SECTION 2. Any person owning a seat or pew in the house of worship of any territorial parish, which seat or pew is not customarily occupied by him or his family, or by some person or persons holding under him, and who may be dissatisfied with the action of the parish under the first section of this act, may sell his seat or pew to the parish; and if he cannot agree with the

22 assessors of the parish upon the price for said seat or pew, the
23 price shall be ascertained in the following manner :

24 The pew-holder shall designate one discreet and disinterested
25 appraiser, the assessors of the parish a second, and these two a
26 third, who shall proceed to estimate the value of said seat or
27 pew, and to fix a price for the same; and the assessors, in behalf
28 of the parish, may, within thirty days thereafterwards, purchase
29 and pay for said seat or pew, at the price agreed upon by the
30 appraisers; provided always, that the pew-holder shall not be
31 obliged by reason of such proceedings to convey his seat or
32 pew; and provided further, that if the parish shall refuse to
33 take and pay for the said seat or pew, at the price so fixed, no
34 assessment made after such pew-holder shall have designated an
35 appraiser, and notified the assessors thereof, shall be valid.



STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 10, 1853.

This bill was read twice, and on motion of Mr. PRENTISS of Bangor, it was laid on the table, and 350 copies of the bill and amendment ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

G. W. WILCOX, *Clerk.*