

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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December 10, 1943

To George W. Tyler, District Operations Officer, U. S. Department  
of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service,  
Seattle 4, Washington

Re: Civil Rights

Section XIII of the Constitution of Maine reads as follows:

"The Legislature may enact laws excluding from the right of suffrage, for a term not exceeding ten years, all persons convicted of bribery at any election, or of voting at any election under the influence of a bribe."

Chapter 133, Sections 5 and 6, R. S. 1930, provide for an additional penalty in cases of bribery of public officers and the corrupt solicitation of influence to procure places of trust, and disqualification to hold any place of trust in the State forever.

Apparently, in cases of bribery the disability to hold public office continues forever. In my opinion, a pardon would restore civil rights, but not the serving of a sentence alone, in the cases hereinbefore cited.

No civil rights are lost, so far as voting is concerned, in the State elections, for convictions in cases less than a felony, but in some of the city charters of the State there are provisions to the effect that no one having a criminal record shall be entitled to hold office either in the city government or as a member of certain designated departments.

John G. Marshall  
Deputy Attorney General

JGM:c