

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1637**

S. P. 674

In Senate, January 6, 1964

The Committee on Judiciary suggested.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Farris of Kennebec.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-FOUR

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**AN ACT Relating to Acknowledgment and Validation of Certain Instruments.**

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 168, § 40, amended.** Section 40 of chapter 168 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 40. Records of deeds with certain kinds of defective acknowledgments validated.** All records of all deeds and other instruments, including powers of attorney, heretofore made prior to January 1, ~~1957~~ 1964, for the conveyance of real property in this State, or of any interest therein, and recorded or written out at length in the books of record in the registry of deeds of the county in which said real property lies, the acknowledgment of which was not completed, or was erroneously taken, or was taken by a person not having authority to take such acknowledgment, or where the authority of the person taking such acknowledgment was not completely stated, or was erroneously stated, or where it does not appear whether the authority taking such acknowledgment acted as a notary public, a justice of the peace or other duly authorized authority for the taking of such acknowledgment of such deed or other instrument was taken, or where the authority taking such acknowledgment had not signed the same but had attached or had affixed or had stamped thereon his seal of authority, or where the acknowledgment was taken by the grantor or grantee, or by the husband or wife of the grantor or grantee, or the acknowledgment was taken by a magistrate who was a minor, or an interested party whose term of office had expired at the time of such acknowledgment, or an acknowledgment of which was taken by a proper officer but outside of the territory in which he was authorized to act, or was taken before any person who, at the time of such acknowledgment had received an appointment, election or permission authorizing him to

take such acknowledgment, but had not qualified, but who has since such time duly qualified, or where the grantor was acting as a duly authorized agent or in a fiduciary or representative capacity, or was acting as an officer of a corporation and acknowledged said instrument individually, or where the acknowledgment was taken without the State before any person authorized to take acknowledgments, and using the form of acknowledgment prescribed by the laws of the state or country in which such instrument was executed, or such person has failed to affix to such instrument a proper certificate, showing his authority to act as such magistrate; or where such acknowledgment was not signed by a magistrate of this State or any other state or territory of the United States, or any foreign country, authorized to take such acknowledgment, but such acknowledgment was signed by an ambassador, minister, charge d'affaires, consul, vice-consul, deputy consul, consul-general, vice-consul-general, consular agent, vice-consular-agent, commercial agent or vice-commercial agent of the United States in any foreign country, who was not qualified to take such acknowledgment, but has since become qualified by law to do so, but which acknowledgment was complete in every other respect; or where the acknowledgment was signed by a proper magistrate but there has been omitted therefrom, his official seal, if he had one, or the names of the grantors, the date and place of acknowledgment, or the words, "personally appeared before me," or a statement that it was acknowledged as the grantor's "free act and deed"; or such certificate of acknowledgment is in the form of an oath, or states merely that the said instrument was subscribed in his presence, or is otherwise informal or incomplete, if signed by a proper magistrate; and all records in any such registry of instruments relating to the title to real property which fail to disclose the date when received for record or the record of which has not been signed by the register of deeds for said county or other duly authorized recording officer, such records are validated.'

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 168, § 41, amended.** The first 6 sentences of section 41 of chapter 168 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, are further amended to read as follows:

'All deeds and other instruments, including powers of attorney, heretofore made prior to January 1, ~~1957~~ 1964, for the conveyance of real property in this State or any interest therein, and otherwise valid except that the same omitted to state any consideration therefor or that the same were not sealed by the grantors or any of them, are validated. Every duly recorded satisfaction piece or instrument made prior to January 1, ~~1957~~ 1964, with intent to cancel and discharge or assign a mortgage of real estate, fully identifying the mortgage so intended to be canceled and discharged or assigned, but not drawn in formal accordance with statutory requirements, shall be held a valid discharge or assignment of such mortgage and a release or assignment of the mortgaged interest in such real estate. All corporations organized or attempted to be organized under and by virtue of any of the statutes of this State more than 20 years prior to January 1, ~~1957~~ 1964, and not heretofore, between April 15, 1927 and January 1, ~~1957~~ 1964, declared to be invalid, shall be held to all intents and purposes as if the same had in all respects been properly and rightfully organized and existing as lawful corporations, and the deeds or other instruments of such corporations organized or attempted to be organized, given in their corporate names, affecting real estate in this State or conveying the same,

and heretofore between April 15, 1927 and January 1, ~~1957~~ 1964 recorded, or written out at length upon the books of record in the registry of deeds in the county in which such real estate lies, shall not be held invalid by reason of any lack of authority or informality for or in their execution or delivery, if taken bona fide from the acting officers of such corporation or attempted organization as such, which such taking shall be presumed, but such corporations, attempted organizations as such, with such deeds and their records made as aforesaid, are validated. Any deed or other instrument made for the purpose of conveying real property in this State or any interest therein, and heretofore recorded or spread at length in the books of record in the registry of deeds for the county in which said real property lies, prior to January 1, ~~1957~~ 1964 which said deed or other instrument or said records fail to disclose authority by such corporation for the conveyance of such real estate, or which deed or other instrument fails to bear the corporate seal, or is executed or acknowledged by the person executing such deed in his individual capacity, or which fails to disclose the official capacity of the person executing such deed, or which was not signed by the officer duly authorized to sign such deed, with its record made as aforesaid, is validated. All deeds and other instruments made prior to January 1, ~~1957~~ 1964 for the conveyance of real property in this State, or any interest therein and executed by a person or persons purporting to act as the agent or attorney of the grantors, their spouses, or any of them, which such deeds have been recorded or written at length in the books of record in the registry of deeds for the county in which said real property lies more than 40 years prior to January 1, ~~1957~~ 1964, but no power of attorney authorizing and empowering such agent or attorney to make such conveyance or execute and deliver such deed, appears of record, but such real estate has in the meantime been occupied, claimed or treated by the grantees and those claiming by, through or under them as other property of like kind and similarly situated would be held or claimed by the owners thereof, shall be held to all intents and purposes as if executed and delivered under and by virtue of proper power of attorney duly recorded and given for the purpose, and the records thereof are validated. All instruments written or recorded in the books of record in the registry of deeds in the county in which the real estate affected thereby lies, more than 40 years prior to January 1, ~~1957~~ 1964, signed or executed by any person or persons purporting to act as the agent or attorney of the holder of any mortgage of real estate and purporting to operate as a discharge of such mortgage, shall be held as if executed and delivered under and by virtue of a proper power of attorney given for the purpose, although no power of attorney authorizing such agent or attorney thereto shall appear of record, and the records thereof are validated.'