
FORTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 28.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT additional to chapter fifty-three of the revised statutes of this state relating to telegraph companies.

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

SECTION 1. Whenever it shall be necessary to cut or
2 otherwise disconnect the wires of any telegraph com-
3 pany, or to remove them from the poles or fixtures to
4 which they are attached, in order to move a building
5 across the same, or for any other purpose, any person
6 desiring so to cut, disconnect or remove such wires,
7 shall have the right so to do, exercising reasonable
8 care therein ; *provided* that before doing so, he shall
9 make a statement in writing, by him signed, of the
10 time when, and the particular place where, by refer-

11 ence to the crossings of the streets or highways, he
12 wishes to cut, disconnect, or remove such wires as
13 aforesaid, and leave the same at the office of such com-
14 pany, if any there is, in the town where such place is
15 situated, twenty-four hours before the time so stated ;
16 and if such company has no office in the same town,
17 then he shall send such statement by mail to the office
18 of such company nearest to the place named therein,
19 by putting it into the post-office, properly directed and
20 stamped, three days before the time stated therein.

SECT. 2. Whoever shall wilfully cut, disconnect,
2 remove, or otherwise interrupt the use of any telegraph
3 wires without first giving notice as provided in the
4 first section of this act, shall be punished as provided
5 in section two of the one hundred and twenty-seventh
6 chapter of the revised statutes of this state.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of every person or
2 company, using or owning any line of telegraph wholly
3 or partly in this state, to transmit all despatches in the
4 order in which they are received, under the penalty of
5 one hundred dollars, to be recovered with costs of suit,
6 by the person whose despatch is wilfully postponed
7 out of its order as herein prescribed.

SECT. 4. Any clerk, operator, messenger, or other
2 agent of any telegraph company doing business in this
3 state who shall wilfully divulge the contents, or the

4 nature of the contents of any private communication
5 entrusted to him for transmission or delivery, shall be
6 punished by imprisonment in the county jail not more
7 than three months, or by a fine of not more than one
8 hundred dollars.

SECT. 5. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 25, 1868. }

Reported by Mr. HALE, from the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*