

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 42.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT providing for the establishment of true meridian lines, and for regulating the practice of surveying in this state.

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

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the county commissioners of each county of the state within two years from and after the passage of this act, or in case any new county shall be formed at any time hereafter, then within six months of the time when the act creating such new county shall have become a law, to erect on some land belonging to the county, or on such land as the commissioners may hereafter acquire for that purpose, at such place or places in the several counties as the public convenience and necessities may require,

11 a true meridian line, or lines, to be perpetuated by
12 substantial stone posts, or pillars, upon whose summits
13 there shall be firmly and immovably fixed, brass or
14 copper points to indicate the true range of such meri-
15 dian, and to enclose and protect the same; the said
16 posts or pillars to be and to remain the property of the
17 county wherein the same shall be located, under the
18 custody and care of the clerk of the courts of said
19 county, to be free to the access of any surveyor or civil
20 engineer residing in said county, or engaged in sur-
21 veying therein, for the purpose of testing the variation
22 of the compass for the time being; and the expense
23 attending the same shall be assessed by the commis-
24 sioners and paid from the treasury of the several
25 counties.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of every land surveyor
2 in the state, at least once in every six months in each
3 year, to adjust and verify his compass by the meridian
4 line so established in the county wherein his surveys
5 are to be made, and to insert in his field notes the
6 true, as well as the magnetic bearings of the lines of
7 his surveys, and the day on which the lines were run.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of the commissioners
2 of the several counties, aforesaid, to procure a book of
3 records to be kept by the clerk of the courts, and to
4 be accessible to all persons wishing to refer thereto,

5 and every surveyor, on having adjusted his compass,
6 as aforesaid, shall enter therein the variation of his
7 compass from the true meridian, whether east or west,
8 and shall subscribe his name thereto, for future refer-
9 ence.

SECT. 4. Any surveyor who shall neglect or refuse
2 to comply with the provisions of sections second and
3 third of this act shall, for every such neglect or refusal,
4 pay the sum of ten dollars on complaint made by any
5 person interested in such survey before any trial jus-
6 tice in the county where such survey is made, one half
7 to the person making the complaint, and the other
8 half to the county.

SECT. 5. On the erection of the posts, or monu-
2 ments, by the county commissioners for their respective
3 counties, as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the gov-
4 ernor and council to appoint some competent person,
5 as commissioner, to inspect and verify, by astronomical
6 observations, the meridian lines so established, who
7 shall make a report of his doings therein, with a full
8 and accurate description of the monuments, the lati-
9 tude and longitude of the same, also the declination of
10 the needle, for the time being, upon each of the said
11 meridian lines, and deposit a record thereof with the
12 clerk of the courts in each of the counties aforesaid ;
13 and the said commissioner shall be paid for his services

14 such compensation as by the governor and council may
15 be deemed equitable and just.

SECT. 6. Any person or persons who shall wilfully
2 displace, alter, deface, destroy, or otherwise injure any
3 of the monuments or points by which such meridian
4 lines shall be marked, or shall destroy, break down, or
5 carry away the enclosure aforesaid, or any lock, bar,
6 bolt, or any part thereof, the said person or persons so
7 offending shall be punished, upon complaint and con-
8 viction before any court of competent jurisdiction, by
9 fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, one half to be
10 paid to the complainant, and the other half to the
11 county wherein such offence may have been com-
12 mitted.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 12, 1869. }

Reported from the Committee on Education, by Mr. BIGELOW.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*