

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTIETH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 22.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT for the relinquishment to the United States in certain cases of title to lands for sites of light stations on the coast and waters of the state.

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

SECTION 1. That whenever it shall be made to
2 appear to any justice of the supreme judicial court,
3 upon the application of any authorized agent of the
4 United States, that the said United States are desirous
5 of purchasing any tract of land and the right of way
6 thereto, within the limits of this state, for the erection
7 of a light-house, beacon-light, range-light, or light-
8 keeper's dwelling, and that the owner or owners of
9 said land are unknown, non-residents, or minors, or
10 from any other cause are incapable of making a per-

11 fect title to said lands, or in case the said owners being
12 residents, and capable of conveying, shall, from disa-
13 greement in price, or any other cause whatever, refuse
14 to convey said lands to the United States, it shall be
15 the duty of the judge of the district court in which the
16 lands so designated to be purchased are situated, to
17 order notice of the said application to be published in
18 some newspaper nearest to where said lands lie, once
19 in each week, for the space of four months, which
20 notice shall contain an accurate description of the said
21 lands, together with the names of the owners, or sup-
22 posed owners, and shall require all persons interested
23 in the said lands to come forward, on a day to be
24 specified in said notice, and file their objections, if any
25 they should have, to the proposed purchase ; and at
26 the time specified in said notice, it shall be the duty
27 of the said court to empanel a jury, in the manner
28 now provided by law, to assess the value of said lands
29 at their fair market value, and all damages sustained
30 by the owner of the lands so appropriated by reason of
31 such appropriation, which amount when so assessed,
32 together with the entire costs of said proceedings, shall
33 be paid into the county treasury of said county in
34 which said proceedings are had, and thereupon the
35 sheriff of the said county, upon the production of the
36 certificate of the treasurer of said county that the said

37 amount has been paid, shall execute to the United
38 States, and deliver to their authorized agent, a deed
39 of the said lands, reciting the proceedings in said cause,
40 which said deed shall convey to the said United States
41 a good and absolute title to the said lands against all
42 persons whatsoever.

SECT. 2. The money so paid into the county treas-
2 ury shall there remain until ordered to be paid out by
3 a court of competent jurisdiction.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of the judge directing
2 the money to be paid to a county treasurer, in accord-
3 ance with the proceedings of this act, to require of
4 such treasurer a bond in double the amount of money
5 ordered to be paid by him, with two or more sufficient
6 sureties, to be approved by said judge. Said bonds
7 shall be payable to the people of the State of Maine,
8 for the use and benefit of such persons, severally, as
9 are entitled to said money. Said bonds shall be exe-
10 cuted and approved and filed with the clerk of said
11 court before receiving said money.

SECT. 4. In all cases of publication of notice under
2 this act, the court shall require the same proof as in
3 cases of publication of notice under the civil practice
4 act of this state.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 3, 1871.

Reported from the Committee on the Judiciary by Mr. LANE,
and printed under the Joint Rule.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*