

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

---

---

# Sixty-Fifth Legislature.

---

---

HOUSE.

No. 174.

---

---

## STATE OF MAINE.

---

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

---

AN ACT to enable independent local churches to become  
incorporated.

---

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

SECTION 1. Any independent local church now exist-  
2 ing, or that may hereafter be organized in this State, may  
3 be incorporated according to the provisions of this act.

SECT. 2. When three or more members of such church,  
2 who are voters according to section three of this act,  
3 shall apply in writing to any justice of the peace in the  
4 county for the purpose of incorporating said church, said  
5 justice shall issue his warrant addressed to one of said appli-  
6 cants, stating the time, place and purposes of the meeting

7 and directing him to notify the members of said church by  
8 posting a certified copy of said warrant in a conspicuous  
9 place near the main entrance to the usual place of meet-  
10 ing of such church and in one other public and conspicu-  
11 ous place in the same town, for seven days, at least, prior  
12 to said meeting.

SECT. 3. The resident members of such church twenty-  
2 one years of age and upward, shall be voters at such  
3 meeting and in all meetings of the corporation. Such  
4 voters, assembled at the time and place notified, shall  
5 elect a moderator to preside over said meeting. They  
6 shall then by ballot, proceed to vote upon the question  
7 whether the church will become incorporated under this  
8 act. If two-thirds of the ballots cast shall be in favor of  
9 the church becoming incorporated, it shall thereupon  
10 become a body corporate with all the powers, rights and  
11 duties incident to corporations, with the right to take by  
12 gift, purchase, devise or bequest such personal and real  
13 property as may be useful for carrying on its local work,  
14 and may dispose of the same at pleasure, have perpetual  
15 succession, a corporate seal, and change the same at  
16 pleasure.

SECT. 4. They shall, by ballot, elect a clerk, treasurer,  
2 a business committee of not less than three nor more than  
3 seven members who are voters, and such other officers as  
4 they may deem necessary.

SECT. 5. The church by its by-laws may prescribe the  
2 duties of the several officers and the manner of executing  
3 the same. When no provision is made by any vote or  
4 by-law of the church for calling meetings, they shall be  
5 called by the business committee by posting notices of

6 the time, place and purposes of said meeting, in the same  
7 manner and for the same time as is prescribed in section  
8 two of this act. And meetings shall also, in the same  
9 manner, be called by said committee, upon the written  
10 request of at least six members of the church qualified to  
11 vote.

SECT. 6. The clerk and business committee, so elected,  
2 shall make a certificate setting forth under their hands the  
3 notice and its date, the date of the meeting and vote of the  
4 members of the church twenty-one years of age and  
5 upward, present at the meeting, who voted in favor of,  
6 and against such incorporation, and the town in which  
7 such church is located, which certificate shall be duly  
8 recorded in the records of the church by said clerk, and  
9 when the same has been so recorded, said church shall be  
10 fully incorporated under this act.

SECT. 7. The deacons of such church or any other  
2 person or persons holding real or personal estate in trust  
3 for the use of such church, may convey such property to  
4 such incorporated church, and said church shall hold the  
5 same subject to the uses and trusts under which it was  
6 held by such deacons or other person or persons.

SECT. 8. Any parish or religious society, connected  
2 with the church which becomes incorporated under the  
3 provisions of this act, may, at a meeting duly warned and  
4 called for such purpose by a two-thirds vote, authorize one  
5 or more persons in its name and behalf to convey to  
6 such church any real or personal estate which it may hold  
7 for the use of such church, and such church shall there-  
8 after hold such property to the same uses and trusts as  
9 when held by such parish or society.

STATE OF MAINE.

---

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES }  
February 27, 1891. }

Reported by Mr. HERRICK of Bethel, from Committee on Judiciary,  
and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*