

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty-Eighth Legislature.

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SENATE.

No. 195.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT amendatory of section nineteen of chapter twelve  
of the Revised Statutes, relating to officers of Religious  
Societies.

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

Section 1. Section nineteen of chapter twelve of the  
2 Revised Statutes is hereby amended by adding the suffix  
3 ‘men’ to the word “vestry” in the sixth line thereof, and  
4 by striking out the words “such corporations may organ-  
5 ize as corporations and,” in the seventh and eighth lines  
6 thereof, and inserting in their stead the words, ‘for the  
7 purpose of organizing any such corporation, one or more  
8 members of said corporation may call a meeting thereof

9 by a notice posted upon the outer door of the meeting-  
10 house or place of public worship of their parish or society  
11 at least seven days before the time of holding said meeting ;  
12 or, if there is no such meeting-house or place of public wor-  
13 ship, by a notice posted in two public and conspicuous places  
14 in the town wherein said parish or society is located. At  
15 such meeting the corporation may organize, adopt a cor-  
16 porate name, and elect such officers as its by-laws shall  
17 prescribe. Said corporations shall have the powers  
18 granted to parishes by section three of this chapter, and  
19 may,' so that said section as amended shall read as follows :

‘Section 19. The church wardens of Episcopal churches,  
21 the stewards or trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church,  
22 and the deacons of all other Protestant churches, are so  
23 far corporations as to take, in succession, all grants and  
24 gifts of real and personal estate made to their churches, or  
25 to them and their successors ; and if the ministers, elders  
26 or vestrymen are joined with them in such grants or gifts,  
27 the two classes of officers shall be corporations for that  
28 purpose. For the purpose of organizing any such cor-  
29 poration, one or more members of said corporation may  
30 call a meeting thereof by a notice posted upon the outer  
31 door of the meeting-house or place of public worship of  
32 their parish or society at least seven days before the time  
33 of holding such meeting ; or, if there is no such meeting-  
34 house or place of public worship, by a notice posted in two  
35 public and conspicuous places in the town wherein said

36 parish or society is located. At such meeting the corpora-  
37 tion may organize, adopt a corporate name, and elect such  
38 officers as its by-laws shall prescribe. Said corporations  
39 shall have the powers granted to parishes by section three  
40 of this chapter, and may make such contracts in relation  
41 to such estate, its improvement or disposal, as they may  
42 be authorized under the rules of their church, or instructed  
43 by the church or society for which they hold such estate  
44 in trust, to make, which contracts may be enforced by or  
45 against them, as in other cases; provided, however, that  
46 no disposal of such estate shall be made, inconsistent with  
47 the terms of the grant by which it is held.'

Sect. 2. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, March 19, 1897.

Reported by Mr. CLASON, from Committee on Legal Affairs, and  
laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary.*