

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Seventy-first Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 188

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THREE.

AN ACT to amend section 12 and following sections of chapter
43 of the Revised Statutes in relation to meridian lines and
a standard of length.

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

Section 1. Section 12 of chapter 43 of the Revised Statutes
2 and the subsequent sections of said chapter are hereby
3 amended so as to read as follows:

‘Sect. 12. The county commissioners, at the expense of
5 their several counties, shall erect and forever maintain therein,
6 at such place or places remote from electrical disturbances
7 as the public convenience requires, a true meridian line to
8 be perpetuated by stone pillars with brass or copper points
9 firmly fixed on the tops thereof, indicating the true range of

10 such meridian; and shall protect the same and provide a
11 book of records to be kept by the clerk of courts, or by a
12 person appointed by them nearer to such structure, and
13 accessible to all persons wishing to refer thereto.

‘Sect. 13. Such structures shall be under the care and cus-
15 tody of such clerks; and any surveyor residing in said county
16 or engaged in surveying therein, shall have free access
17 thereto for the purpose of testing the variation of the mag-
18 netic needle.

‘Sect. 14. When such meridian lines have been established
20 and completed every land surveyor shall, at least annually
21 before making any survey, test and verify his compass (or
22 other instrument using the magnetic needle) by the meridian
23 line so established in the county where his surveys are to be
24 made, and shall enter the declination of such needle from the
25 true meridian in the book mentioned in section 12, together
26 with the style and make of such instrument and its number,
27 if any, and the date and hour of observation, and subscribe
28 his name thereto for future reference; and shall insert cor-
29 responding entries as to date and declination, in his field note
30 books, which field note books shall also show dates at which
31 his surveys are made. Neglect or refusal to comply with
32 the terms of this section shall render such surveyor liable to
33 a penalty of \$10.00 for each neglect, to be recovered on com-
34 plaint in the county where any survey is made, half to the
35 complainant and half to the county; and in addition such sur-
36 veyor shall be barred from testifying in any court as to any
37 survey not made in accordance herewith.

‘The provisions of this section shall not apply to such sur-
39 veys as are made by angles from some fixed, permanent line,
40 or by a solar instrument and independent of the magnetic
41 needle.

‘Sect. 15. The county commissioners at the expense of the
43 several counties shall also erect and forever maintain therein,

44 at such place or places as the public convenience may require,
45 a standard of length of not less than one hundred feet, with
46 suitable subdivisions marked thereon.

‘Such standard may consist of stone monuments perma-
48 nently fixed with metal plates on the tops thereof, properly
49 marked and protected; or of a steel bar of the necessary
50 length properly marked and suitably placed and protected.
51 All such standards shall be made to correspond with the
52 standard of the United States Bureau of Weights and Meas-
53 ures, and shall be provided with proper means for determin-
54 ing the tension of tapes or chains during comparison.

‘Such standards shall be under the care and custody of the
56 clerks of courts, who shall keep a suitable book for the record
57 of comparisons.

‘Such standard shall be accessible to any person for com-
59 paring any tape, chain, or other linear measure.

‘Every surveyor shall before making surveys in this State,
61 and at least annually, compare his tape or chain used in such
62 surveys with the standard in the county in which he resides
63 or in which surveys are to be made; and shall record the
64 result in the book provided for that purpose, giving descrip-
65 tion of such tape or chain, with the difference, if any, between
66 the same and such standard, together with the date and tem-
67 perature and the tension on such tape or chain at the time
68 of comparison. When such standard shall have been com-
69 pleted in any county, any surveyor residing or making sur-
70 veys in such county who shall neglect or refuse to comply
71 with the terms of this section, shall be liable to the penalties
72 and disability set forth in section 14 of this chapter.

‘Sect. 16. Whoever wilfully displaces, alters, defaces,
74 breaks, or otherwise injures any of the pillars or points,
75 plates, enclosures, bars, locks, bolts, or any part of the struc-
76 ture of any meridian line or standard of length shall forfeit
77 not exceeding one hundred dollars, to be recovered by indict-

78 ment, half to the prosecutor and half to the county, and shall
79 also be liable in an action of debt for the amount necessarily
80 expended in repairing damages caused by his act.

Sect. 17. When such meridian line or standard of length
82 is established, repaired or rebuilt in any county, the Governor
83 and Council shall appoint a competent commissioner (not
84 necessarily a resident of this State) to inspect and verify the
85 same. Such commissioner shall in case of a meridian line
86 verify the same by astronomical observation, and in his report
87 shall give an accurate description of such structures, its
88 latitude and longitude, and the declination of the needle at
89 the time; and in case of a standard of length shall give a
90 description of the structure, its location and exact length as
91 determined by comparison with some authentic standard from
92 the United States Bureau of Weights and Measures. All
93 such reports shall be full and accurate and be deposited in
94 the office of the Secretary of State, and a certified copy shall
95 be filed and recorded in the office of the clerk of courts in
96 the county where such structure is situated.

‘Such commissioner shall receive from the State such just
98 compensation as the Governor and Council shall allow.’

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AUGUSTA, February 25, 1903.

Reported by Mr. LITTLEFIELD of Rockland, from Committee on the
Judiciary, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*