

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE.

No. 715

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT relating to the solemnization of marriages.

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*Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:*

Section 1. Every justice of the peace or notary public  
2 residing in this State may solemnize marriages therein.  
3 Every ordained minister of the gospel, clergyman engaged  
4 in the service of the religious body to which he belongs,  
5 or person licensed to preach by an association of ministers,  
6 religious seminary or ecclesiastical body, whether a resi-  
7 dent or non-resident of this State, and of either sex, may  
8 solemnize marriages therein after being licensed for that  
9 purpose, upon application duly filed with the Secretary of  
10 State, as herein provided. Such application shall be made

11 upon blanks furnished by the Secretary of State which shall  
12 be signed by the applicant and set forth the necessary facts  
13 in the premises, which facts shall be certified to by the clerk,  
14 treasurer, or any of the municipal officers of the town  
15 wherein the applicant resides, or wherein the ceremony is  
16 to be performed. Upon receipt of such application the  
17 Secretary of State shall issue to the applicant a license  
18 under the seal of the State to the effect that he is author-  
19 ized to solemnize marriages in this State. Such license, or  
20 a certified copy thereof, shall be received as evidence in all  
21 courts of his authority in the premises, and a copy of the  
22 record of any marriage solemnized by such licensee duly  
23 made and kept, attested or sworn to by the clerk of the  
24 town in which the marriage intention was recorded or in  
25 which the marriage was solemnized shall be received in all  
26 courts as evidence of the fact of marriage. Such license  
27 shall continue until revoked by the Governor for cause,  
28 after notice and an opportunity to be heard thereon.

Sect. 2. Section 13 of Chapter 61 of the Revised Statutes  
2 is hereby amended by striking from the first line thereof  
3 the words "commissioned as aforesaid," so that said sec-  
4 tion, as amended, shall read as follows:

'Sect. 13. Whoever knowingly and willfully joins per-  
6 sons in marriage contrary to this chapter, forfeits one hun-  
7 dred dollars, two-thirds thereof to the county where the  
8 offense is committed, and one-third to the prosecutor, to

9 be recovered by the county treasurer, or by the parent guar-  
10 dian, or other person under whose immediate care and gov-  
11 ernment either of the parties was at the time of such mar-  
12 riage; and such offender is forbidden to join any persons  
13 in marriage thereafter.'

Sect. 3. Sections 11 and 12 of Chapter 61 of the Revised  
2 Statutes, and Chapter 99 of the Public Laws of 1907, are  
3 hereby repealed.

STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Augusta, March 19, 1909.

Reported by Mr. PETERS from Committee on Judiciary  
and ordered printed under joint rules.

E. M. THOMPSON, *Clerk*