

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# EIGHTY - EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 590

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S. P. 315

In Senate, February 16, 1937.

Referred to Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game. Sent down for concurrence and 1000 copies ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Cook of Somerset.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
THIRTY-SEVEN

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### AN ACT Relating to Seizure of Game.

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

**R. S., c. 38, § 96, amended.** Section 96 of chapter 38 of the revised statutes, as revised, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**‘Seizure and disposition of game and equipment for violation of law.** All birds, fish, ~~game or other wild~~ or ~~fur-bearing~~ animals, or parts thereof, hunted, bought, sold, carried, transported, or found in possession of any person, ~~or corporation~~ in violation of the provisions of this chapter, or any boat, car, conveyance or equipment used ~~or possessed in hunting,~~ ~~trapping or fishing~~ in violation of the provisions of this chapter, shall be contraband and shall be forfeited to the state. And in all cases where a warden may ~~seize find~~ birds, fish, ~~game or other wild~~ or ~~fur-bearing~~ animals, or parts thereof, or any boat, car, conveyance or equipment used ~~or possessed in violation of the provisions of this chapter in hunting,~~ ~~trapping or fishing,~~ he may seize the same without a warrant, and keep them in some safe place for a reasonable time, ~~until he can procure such~~ ~~warrant.~~

When any birds, fish, ~~game or other wild~~ or ~~fur-bearing~~ animals, or parts thereof, or any boat, car, conveyance or equipment used ~~in hunting~~

or possessed ~~trapping or fishing~~ are seized as provided in the preceding paragraph, ~~and a warrant is issued~~, the officer who made such seizure, ~~in case of reasonable doubt existing as to the ownership of such articles~~, shall within reasonable time file with ~~the~~ a magistrate ~~before whom such warrant is returnable~~ a libel against such birds, fish, ~~game or other wild or fur-bearing~~ animals, or parts thereof, or any boat, car, conveyance or equipment used ~~or possessed in violation of the provisions of this chapter in hunting, trapping or fishing~~ setting forth their seizure by him, describing such birds, fish ~~game or other wild or fur-bearing~~ animals, or parts thereof, or any boat, car, conveyance or equipment ~~used in hunting, trapping or fishing~~, and that they were hunted, taken, caught, killed, used or had in possession in violation of the provisions of this chapter, and pray for a decree of forfeiture thereof, and such magistrate shall thereupon fix a time for the hearing of such libel, and shall issue his monition and notice of the same, to all persons interested, citing them to appear at the time and place appointed and show cause why said birds, fish, ~~game or other wild or fur-bearing~~ animals, or parts thereof, or any boat, car, conveyance or equipment used ~~or possessed in hunting, trapping or fishing~~ should not be declared forfeited, by causing a true and attested copy of said libel and monition to be posted in 2 conspicuous places in the town or place where such birds, fish, ~~game or other wild or fur-bearing~~ animals, or parts thereof, or any boat, car, conveyance or equipment used ~~in hunting, trapping or possessed fishing~~ were seized, or in such place or places as is ordered by the magistrate, 10 days at least before the day to which said libel is returnable.

In case the magistrate finds that the birds, fish, ~~game or other wild or fur-bearing~~ animals, or parts thereof, seized, will be unsuitable for food (or other use) at the day to which said libel is returnable, he shall order the officer making the seizure to dispose of the same; and the officer so disposing of the same shall, in case of sale, hold the proceeds of said sale subject to order of the court for decision as to the right of the claimant, if any appear, to said birds, fish, ~~game or other wild or fur-bearing~~ animals, or parts thereof. If the magistrate finds the claimant, if any appear, is not entitled to said birds, fish, ~~game or other wild or fur-bearing~~ animals, or parts thereof, the officer making such seizure shall turn over to the magistrate the proceeds of such sale, and such magistrate shall forward the proceeds thereof to the commissioner in the same manner as is provided by section 99 of this chapter.

If no claimant appears, such magistrate shall, on proof of notice as aforesaid, declare the same forfeited to the state. If any person appears and claims such articles, or any part thereof, as having a right to the

possession thereof at the time when the same were seized, he shall file with the magistrate such claim in writing, stating specifically the right so claimed, and the foundation thereof, the items so claimed, the time and place of the seizure and the name of the officer by whom the same were seized, and in it declare that they were not ~~hunted, taken, caught, killed,~~ used or had in possession in violation of the provisions of this chapter, **with his knowledge or consent as alleged in said libel and monition**, and also state his business and place of residence and shall sign and make oath to the same before said magistrate. If any person so makes claim, he shall be admitted as a party to the process; and the magistrate shall proceed to determine the truth of the allegations in said claim and libel, and may hear any pertinent evidence offered by the libelant or claimant. If the magistrate is, upon the hearing, satisfied that said birds, fish, ~~game or other wild or fur-bearing~~ animals, or parts thereof, or any ~~boat, car, conveyance or~~ equipment used in ~~hunting, or possessed trapping or fishing~~ were not ~~hunted, taken, caught, killed,~~ used or had in possession in violation of the provisions of this chapter, and that the claimant is entitled to the custody of any part thereof, he shall give him an order in writing, directed to the officer having the same in custody, commanding him to deliver to said claimant the articles, or proceeds derived from the sale of the same, to which he is so found to be entitled, within 48 hours after demand. If the magistrate finds the claimant entitled to no part of said articles so seized, he shall render judgment against him for the libelant for costs, to be taxed as in civil cases before such magistrate, and issue execution thereon, and shall declare said articles forfeited to the state. The claimant may appeal and shall recognize with sureties as on appeals in civil causes from a magistrate.

The forms herein set forth, with such changes as adapt them for use in cities, towns, and plantations, are sufficient in law, for all cases arising under the foregoing provisions, to which they purport to be adapted; and the costs to be taxed and allowed for the libel, shall be 50 cents; for entering the same, 30 cents; for trying the same, \$1; for a monition, 50 cents; for posting notices and return, \$1; order to restore or deliver, 25 cents; executing the order, 50 cents; and 10 cents per mile for all necessary travel.

**Form of monition and notice**

STATE OF MAINE

“County of ....., ss.

(L. S.) To all persons interested in .....”  
 (here insert the description of the birds, fish, game, wild or fur-bearing

animals, or parts thereof, or boats, cars, conveyances or equipment used **or possessed in violation of the provisions of chapter 38 of the revised statutes, as revised in hunting, trapping or fishing** as in the libel.

“The libel of ..... hereunto annexed, this day filed with me, ....., esquire, a trial justice, judge or recorder of a municipal court, in and for said county, shows that he has seized said articles, because” (insert as in the libel,) “and prays for a decree of forfeiture of the same according to the provisions of law in such case made and provided.

You are, therefore, hereby notified thereof, that you may appear before me, the said justice, judge or recorder, at ....., in said county, on the ..... day of ....., 19....., and then and there show cause why said articles should not be forfeited. Given under my hand and seal at ....., on the ..... day of ....., in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred .....

.....  
Trial Justice, Judge or Recorder.”

**Form of Libel**

STATE OF MAINE

“County of ....., ss. To ..... a trial justice, judge or recorder of a municipal court, in and for said county:

The libel of ..... of ..... shows that he has, ~~by virtue of a warrant duly issued on the~~ ..... day of ..... A. D. +9..... by ....., ~~esquire, a trial justice, judge or recorder of a municipal court in and for said county,~~ seized certain birds, fish, ~~game, wild or fur-bearing~~ animals, or parts thereof, or certain boats, cars, conveyances or equipment used **or possessed in violation of the provisions of chapter 38 of the revised statutes, as revised, in hunting, trapping, or fishing**, described as follows: ..... (here follows a description of articles seized.) “because the same were hunted, taken, caught, killed, used or had in possession in violation of the provisions of this chapter, as follows: .....” (here follows statement alleging the particular violation or violations of the fish and game laws for which said articles were seized.) “which said articles were kept and deposited at .....” (describing the place) “in the said county of ..... Wherefore