

# 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)

# RESOLVES

OF THE

## LEGISLATURE

OF THE

# STATE OF MAINE,

PASSED AT ITS SESSION,

WHICH COMMENCED ON THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF MAY,  
AND ENDED ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF JUNE,  
ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWENTY.

---

Published agreeably to a Resolution of June 23, 1820.

---

*PORTLAND:*

PRINTED BY FRANCIS DOUGLAS, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1820.

## CHAPTER X.

Resolve appointing Commissioners to enquire into the doings of certain Banks.  
*June 15th, 1820.*

WHEREAS sundry Banks, holding charters under the existing laws of this State, have suspended payment greatly to the injury of the public and individuals :

*Resolved,* That James Bridge, Esquire, of Augusta, Albert Newall and William Swan, Esquires, both of Portland, or any two of them, be a committee, vested with full power and authority to inquire and investigate into the doings and transactions of the Hallowell and Augusta Bank, incorporated June twenty third, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and twelve; also the Wiscasset Bank incorporated June twenty third eighteen hundred and twelve; and the Castine Bank, incorporated February fourteenth eighteen hundred and sixteen. That said Committee, shall inquire and ascertain whether the said corporations, or either of them, have exceeded the powers granted them or failed of complying with the rules, restrictions and conditions required by their respective acts of incorporation; to ascertain the amount of bills in circulation, and other debts against said Banks; the amount of money and other property belonging to said institutions, and the amount of debts due to them, distinguishing the amount due from stockholders, from that due from other persons, and generally to ascertain the state and situation of said Banks, as soon as may be, and to report as soon as practicable to this Legislature; and if unable to report at the present session, to deliver their report, to the committee on Banks and Banking; and said committee appointed by this resolve, are hereby fully invested with power to examine all the books, papers and vaults of said Banks, and to send for such persons, books and papers as they shall deem necessary to aid them in their investigation and to afford a full illustration of their concerns and situation.

*And be it further resolved,* That the Secretary of State be and he is hereby directed as soon as may be, to forward each of the persons named on the committee and to the President or any Director or Cashier of each Bank aforesaid an attested copy of this resolve.

## CHAPTER XI.

Resolve authorizing the apportionment of a Board of Jurisprudence. *June 15th, 1820.*

THE committee of both Houses to whom was referred the consideration of so much of the Governor's communication as relates to the

establishment of a Board of Jurisprudence, have bestowed as much time on this important subject as the press of Legislative business would permit :

As the voice of law, and not the will of man, is to be the people's guide, it is believed, that the Legislature and the community at large will heartily reciprocate the sentiment, that the laws of a free state ought to be simple, plain, and easy to be understood, and that a new and revised code of statute law in this government would be peculiarly beneficial at the present time. Our Laws like our language are composed of various materials : to methodize and modify them so as to guard right and punish wrong in the plainest way possible is among the great and difficult duties of legislation. The statute law is rendered voluminous and complicated, by partial or total repeals, amendments and revisions. It is now about two centuries, since it has been accumulating and improving : a period which has witnessed many political changes, as well as many powerful struggles between privilege and prerogative. Another change has elevated Maine to the rank of an independent State. The exigency demands a revision of the existing statutes : many of them relate only to the parent state, some have become obsolete, and the titles and repealed parts of others may all be omitted in a new impression. Thus the whole will be so compressed as to save much expense in furnishing courts, towns and individuals with a new edition of the statutes existing in this State, as well as render those legislative provisions more familiar to the people.

An extensive code of common law in this State, well selected and arranged would be of incomparable value. But much time, labor, legal learning and expense only can produce such a compilation : Your committee, therefore, have concluded, that it would be most expedient to postpone the further consideration of this part of the Governor's communication till the further order of the Legislature ; but as to the statute law, they submit the following resolve for adoption :

WILLIAM D. WILLIAMSON, *Chairman.*

*Resolved,* That there be established a Board of Jurisprudence to consist of three men learned in the law, who shall be appointed by the Governor with advice of Council, and whose duty it shall be to select, arrange and prepare, with suitable indices, a compilation, or digest of all the statutes of the Colony, Province and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, now in force in this State, and to report the same to the Legislature at the next session for acceptance.