

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# L A W S

OF THE

## STATE OF MAINE;

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED

THE

CONSTITUTION OF THE U. STATES

AND OF SAID STATE,

IN TWO VOLUMES,

WITH AN APPENDIX.

.....  
VOL. I.  
.....

Published according to a resolve of the State, passed  
March 8, 1821.

BRUNSWICK.

Printed by J. Griffin, for the State.

.....  
1821.

dred, for the loan or forbearance of the monies or other things actually lent or sold; such bond, contract, mortgage or assurance shall be utterly void; and the debtor fully and absolutely discharged from the payment of any monies, goods or other things lent, exchanged, bargained, sold or agreed for as aforesaid, *unless* the creditor or creditors will swear that he, she or they have not, directly nor indirectly, wittingly taken or received more than after the rate of six dollars in the hundred, for forbearance or giving day of payment; and by such bond, contract, mortgage or assurance, there is not reserved, secured or taken more than after the rate of six per centum, for forbearance or giving day of payment, for the goods, monies, or other things actually lent or sold, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding: *Provided*, nothing in this Act shall extend to letting of cattle, or other usages of the like nature in practice amongst farmers, or maritime contracts among merchants, as bottomry, insurance, or course of exchange, as hath heretofore been practised.

unless creditor will swear the security is not usurious.

This act not to extend to certain contracts.

[Approved March 20, 1821.]



CHAPTER XX.

An Act to prohibit certain Officers of Courts from buying Promissory Notes and other demands, for the purpose of making a gain or profit in the collection thereof.

**BE** it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, *in Legislature assembled*, That if any person shall, with an intent thereby to procure himself to be retained as an Attorney, or employed as a Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff, Coroner or Constable, in the collection of any note, account or other demand whatever, by a suit at law, or with an intent thereby to procure and obtain any promissory note, account, or other demand for the purpose of making to himself any gain or profit from the writs or fees, arising in the collection thereof, by a suit at law, directly or indirectly loan or advance any sum or sums of money; or shall promise to loan or advance any sum or sums of money; or shall forbear and give day of payment; or shall promise to forbear and give day of payment of any sum of money due on

No Attorney, Justice, Sheriff, Coroner or Constable to loan or advance money, &c. to obtain demands for suit or collection, with intent thereby to make profit, &c.

any demand left with such person to be by him collected; or shall pay or assume to pay any debt of any person whatever; or shall purchase any goods or chattels, or shall give or promise any valuable consideration whatever, with an intent thereby to procure and obtain any promissory note, account or other demand, for the purpose of making to himself any gain or profit, from the writs or fees arising in the collecting thereof, by a suit at law; every person so offending shall forfeit and pay a sum, not more than five hundred, nor less than twenty dollars, for each and every offence, to be recovered by indictment in the Supreme Judicial Court; in which case the forfeiture shall enure to the State; or by action before any Court, proper to try the same; in which case the forfeiture shall accrue, one moiety to him or them, who shall first sue and prosecute for the same, and the other moiety to the use of the County where such action may be prosecuted.

Punishment.

Appropriation  
of penalty.

[Approved February 19, 1821.]

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 CHAPTER XXI.

An Act to prevent Bribery and Corruption.

SEC. 1. **BE** it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in Legislature assembled, That if any person shall directly or indirectly, give or engage to pay, any sum of money, or other valuable consideration to another, in order to induce such other person to procure for him, by his interest, influence or any other means whatsoever, any office or place of trust, within this State, and be thereof convict, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars, nor less than fifty dollars, at the discretion of the Court which shall have cognizance of the same; and be rendered forever after incapable of sustaining any office or place of trust, within this State.

Penalty for  
giving a bribe.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That if any person shall receive of another, any sum of money or other valuable consideration, as a reward for procuring or to procure any office or place of trust within this State, for any other per-

Penalty for re-  
ceiving a  
bribe.