

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# RESOLVES

OF THE

## LEGISLATURE

OF THE

# STATE OF MAINE,

PASSED AT ITS SESSION,

WHICH COMMENCED ON THE TENTH DAY OF JANUARY, AND  
ENDED ON THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF MARCH, ONE  
THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE.

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Published agreeably to a Resolution of June 23, 1820.

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PORTLAND :

PRINTED BY THOMAS TODD & CO. PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1821.

omitted, and it not appearing by said records, that the town officers were duly sworn according to law :

*Resolved*, For reasons set forth in the petition, That the records and proceedings of said town of Strong at their several meetings above mentioned, be, and the same are hereby confirmed, and made valid in law, any of the aforesaid defects or omissions notwithstanding.

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## CHAPTER LIV.

Resolve for making valid certain Marriages and for other purposes. *March*  
19, 1821.

WHEREAS John Haines and others have represented to this Legislature, that sundry marriages have been solemnized within this State by ministers of the gospel, who were not stated and ordained ministers of the gospel, within the meaning of the laws heretofore in force, and who are believed to have been under a mistaken apprehension of the law, and to have supposed they were legally authorized to solemnize such marriages, and have prayed that the same may be rendered valid : Therefore

*Resolved*, That all marriages which have been solemnized within this State by ministers of the gospel, who were not stated and ordained ministers of the gospel, between parties competent by law to contract marriage, and whose intentions of marriage were legally published, shall be deemed and taken, and are hereby declared to be good and valid in law, to all intents and purposes ; and the children of parties thus joined in marriage, shall, and are hereby declared to be entitled to all the privileges and immunities, to which children of parents, who have been joined in marriage by stated and ordained ministers of the gospel, or justices of the peace, are or may by law be entitled : *Provided however*, That this resolve shall not be deemed to extend to those, who, having been joined in marriage by any minister of the gospel, not legally authorized, have since separated, and one of the parties has been legally joined in marriage with another person, but the children of the first marriage shall be considered, to all intents and purposes, legitimate.

*Be it further Resolved*, That every minister of the gospel as above described, who has joined any persons in marriage within this state, shall be and is hereby exempted from all prosecutions, presentments, or indictments for, or on account of his having solemnized such marriages, and from all fines and penalties, to which he was, or is liable in consequence thereof : *Provided however*, That to avail himself of such exemption, he shall within six months from the passing of this resolve, make a return to the clerk of the town or plantation in which he lives, certifying the names of all the persons, whom he has joined in marriage, excepting such as he may have already returned to such clerk.