

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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PUBLIC ACTS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

PASSED BY THE

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE,

JANUARY SESSION, 1838.

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Published agreeably to the Resolve of June 28, 1820.

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AUGUSTA:  
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1838.

larger denomination than one dollar with the fractional part of a dollar.

When to take effect.

—penalty for violating provisions of this act.

SECT. 9. *Be it further enacted,* That this act shall take effect and be in force as soon as it shall be approved by the Governor, and any banking corporation which shall violate the provisions and requirements of this act, shall on conviction thereof, forfeit its charter.

[Approved by the Governor March 17, 1838.]

### Chapter 327.

AN ADDITIONAL ACT concerning meeting-houses.

Certain owners of meeting houses may apply for a division of the time for occupying the same.

—such application to be made to a justice of the peace and quorum.

—mode of calling meeting of owners.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled,* That when any meeting-house or house of public worship in this State shall be owned by persons of different religious denominations, any one or more of such owners being of the minority may apply to any Justice of the Peace and Quorum in the County where such house is situated, to obtain a division of the time of occupying said house; and on such application it shall be the duty of such Justice to call a meeting of the owners of said house by posting up in some conspicuous place in or about said house, a notice thereof, thirty days at least prior to said meeting, said notice setting forth the time, place and purposes of said meeting.

Said Justice to notify two other justices who shall with him constitute a board to make division.

SECT. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of said Justice when applied to for the purpose aforesaid, to notify two other Justices of said county to attend said meeting and the said three Justices, all of whom shall be disinterested in the premises, and neither of whom shall be a resident of the town in which said meeting-house is located, nor belong to the religious denomination of either of the parties interested, shall constitute a board, before which said owner or owners may exhibit the amount owned

by them in said house, in no case to be less than ten pews, and the minority wishing to occupy said house some part of the time, shall have that part allotted to them and decreed as nearly as may be in proportion to the amount owned in said house by said minority, and said board shall designate precisely which weeks in each year said minority may occupy said house—*Provided* they may see fit to occupy it, otherwise the majority may occupy said House.

SECT. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall also be the duty of said board to appraise, according to their best skill and judgment; the value of that portion of said house owned by said minority, provided, that in no case a greater sum shall be awarded to any pew owner than was actually paid by him for such pew or pews; and to make a true record of their proceedings, and to cause the same within ten days next after said meeting to be transcribed into the books of record, kept in and for the city, town or plantation where said meeting-house is situated. And all reasonable expense of said board shall be paid by said person or persons at whose request said division has been made. *Provided* this act shall not affect any agreement now existing in relation to occupying any house of public worship in this State.

SECT. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for said minority to enter and occupy such house for such part of the time as has been allotted to them by said board, unless the majority shall choose to buy out said minority, and then in that case said majority may have the right so to buy by paying to said minority the sum at which their portion of said house shall have been appraised by the board aforesaid: *Provided however*, that if the minority shall prefer not to sell, and shall so do, but in that case they shall not avail themselves of any of the provisions of this act.

SECT. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

[Approved by the Governor March 19, 1838.]