

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

1855.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820, February 26, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

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1855.

PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1855.

CHAP. 179.**Chapter 179.**

An act to amend chapter one hundred eighty-seven of the public laws of eighteen hundred and forty-six relating to coroners.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :

Fees and
expenses of
coroners.

SECT. 1. Chapter one hundred and eighty-seven of the public laws of eighteen hundred and forty-six, is amended by adding the words "fees and," in the fifth line of the act, before the word "reasonable," so that a sufficient compensation for the fees and reasonable expenses shall be allowed to coroners for taking and attending an inquest, and serving warrants and subpoenas therefor.

SECT. 2. This act shall take effect from and after its approval by the governor.

[Approved March 16, 1855.]

Chapter 180.

An act to facilitate the detection and to prevent the circulation of counterfeit bank bills.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :

Marking of
counterfeit bank
bills.

SECT. 1. Any and every bank now established, or which may be established under the authority of this state, which shall receive in payment, or upon deposit, or for redemption from any other bank, or from any person or persons, any counterfeit bank bill, shall or may write or stamp upon such bank bill the words "counterfeit," adding thereto, or thereunder, the name of the bank, and the name or initials of its officer, by which such writing or stamp shall be made.

—altered bank
bills.

SECT. 2. Any bank note or bill which may have been altered from its original denomination or amount to some other, may in like manner be stamped with the word "altered," in such manner as to give notice of such alteration.

Damage for
marking bills not
counterfeit.

SECT. 3. If any bank or its officer shall by mistake or inadvertence make any such writing or stamp upon a bank note or bill which is not in fact a counterfeit or an altered bill, the bank or its officer shall not be answerable in damages for any sum greater than the actual loss or damage which such mistake or inadvertence may produce, except in cases where it appears the stamp was fraudulently made.

Record of bills
marked to be
kept.

SECT. 4. The officer of said bank shall keep a book in which he shall record the denomination of the bill so stamped as aforesaid,

or written upon, and the name of the bank from which it purports to have issued, and the date and number of the bill so stamped or written upon, and the time when stamped and written upon by him. CHAP. 181.

SECT. 5. This act shall take effect from and after its approval by the governor.

[Approved March 17, 1855.]

Chapter 181.

An act for the admission of interested witnesses.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

SECT. 1. No person offered as a witness shall be excluded by reason of his interest in the event of the action, but his interest may be proved to affect his credibility. Testimony of interested witnesses admissible.

SECT. 2. The above section shall not apply to a party to the action, nor to any person for whose immediate benefit it is prosecuted or defended. —parties to actions excepted.

SECT. 3. When an assignor of a thing in action or contract is examined as a witness, on behalf of any person deriving title through or from him, the adverse party may offer himself as a witness to the same matter in his own behalf and shall be so received; but such assignor shall not be admitted to be examined in behalf of any person deriving title through or from him against an assignee or an executor or administrator, unless the other party to such contract or thing in action whom the defendant, or plaintiff represents, is living and his testimony can be procured for such examination. —of assignor admissible in certain cases.

SECT. 4. This act shall take effect from and after its approval by the governor.

[Approved March 17, 1855.]

Chapter 182.

An act further to protect personal liberty.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

SECT. 1. No judge of any court in this state and no justice of the peace shall hereafter take cognizance of, or grant a certificate in cases arising under the act of congress, passed September eighteen, Claims for fugitive slaves not cognizable.