

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

1855.

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

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**AUGUSTA:**  
STEVENS & BLAINE, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1855.

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PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1855.

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CHAP. 188. provided application be made therefor, by its librarian, previous to the first day of October:

Blanks to be prepared.

SECT. 21. The secretary of the state agricultural society is hereby empowered and required to prepare and cause to be printed, and distributed to the secretaries of the several agricultural and horticultural societies in the state, the several blanks required by this act.

Acts repealed.

SECT. 22. All acts and parts of acts relating to agricultural and horticultural societies, and board of agriculture, now in force, except those granting charters to agricultural and horticultural societies, are hereby repealed.

SECT. 23. This act shall take effect from and after its approval by the governor.

[Approved March 17, 1855.]

## Chapter 188.

An act regulating the suffrage of naturalized citizens.

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

Naturalization papers, to be exhibited to town or city authorities three months prior to election.

SECT. 1. No person of foreign birth who shall claim the right to vote by reason of naturalization papers issued to him from any court in the United States, shall have the right to vote in any city, town or plantation in this State, unless three months, at least, before the day of election, he shall produce and exhibit to the aldermen, selectmen, or assessors of the city, town or plantation in which he resides and has his home, his said naturalization papers. And the said aldermen, selectmen, and assessors, shall enter in a book to be kept by them for that purpose, the name of said person, the date of the issue of the papers, and the court by which the same was issued. And if it shall appear to said aldermen, selectmen, or assessors, that said papers were in due form, and were issued by a court having jurisdiction of said matters, and that the person producing them is the party to whom they were issued, they shall cause his name to be entered on the check list of such city, town or plantation, and to be continued on said list so long as he shall remain a resident of such city, town or plantation, and entitled to vote therein.

—record of to be made.

Name of person to be entered on check list.

If papers be not genuine, &c., party not entitled to vote.

SECT. 2. If said aldermen, selectmen, or assessors, shall be of opinion that the papers so produced are not genuine, or that the party so producing them, is not the person to whom they were issued,

they shall not be required to make such entries in said book, nor to enter the name of such person on the check list, as aforesaid; but such person having so produced and exhibited his papers, shall not be deprived of the right to vote by reason of his name not being entered in the said book, but his right to vote shall be determined in the manner it would be if this act had not been passed.

CHAP. 189.

Right to vote, how determined, if name be not on check list.

SECT. 3. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

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

[Approved March 17, 1855.]

### Chapter 189.

An act to provide for the adoption of children.

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

SECT. 1. Any inhabitant of this state may petition the judge of probate in the county wherein he or she may reside, for leave to adopt a child not his or her own by birth.

Leave to adopt a child, petition for.

SECT. 2. If both or either of the parents of such child shall be living, they or the survivor of them, as the case may be, shall consent in writing to such adoption; if neither parent be living, such consent may be given by the legal guardian of such child; if there be no legal guardian, no father nor mother, the next of kin of such child within the state, may give such consent, and if there be no such next of kin, the judge of probate may appoint some discreet and suitable person to act in the proceedings as the next friend of such child, and give or withhold such consent.

Written consent of parent, &c., must be given.

Judge of probate may appoint some discreet person to act.

SECT. 3. If the child be of the age of fourteen years, or upwards, the adoption shall not be made without his or her consent.

Consent of child necessary if fourteen years of age.

SECT. 4. No petition by a person having a lawful wife, shall be allowed, unless such wife shall join therein; and no petition by a person having a lawful husband shall be allowed, unless such husband shall join therein.

If petitioner be husband or wife, partner must join.

SECT. 5. If upon such petition, so presented and consented to as aforesaid, the judge of probate shall be satisfied of the identity and relations of the persons, and that the petitioner, or in case of husband and wife, the petitioners are of sufficient ability to bring up the child, and furnish suitable nurture and education, having reference to the degree and condition of its parents, and that it is

Judge of probate shall decree and confirm adoption.