

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

SEVENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1903.

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Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28,  
1820, February 18, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

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AUGUSTA  
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PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1903.

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## CHAP. 181

'Section 19. A physician who has attended a person during his last illness shall within twenty-four hours after the death of said person make a certificate stating, to the best of his knowledge and belief, the name of the deceased, his age, the disease of which he died, and the date of his death, and shall either deliver it to the person superintending the burial or leave it with the family of the deceased or at the said physician's office where it may be obtained when called for; and a physician or midwife who has attended at the birth of a child dying immediately thereafter, or at the birth of a still-born child, shall, when requested, forthwith furnish for registration a certificate, stating to the best of his knowledge and belief the fact that such child died after birth or was born dead. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to make a false return in regard to any birth or death.'

Attending physician shall within 24 hours after the death, make a certificate of name, age, disease, and date of birth of deceased.

—certificate, how disposed of.

Approved March 27, 1903.

### Chapter 181.

An Act relating to actions for Libel or Slander.

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

Section 1. The defendant in an action for libel, may prove under the general issue, in mitigation of damages, that the charge was made by mistake or through error or by inadvertence, and that he has in writing, within a reasonable time after the publication of the charge, retracted the charge and denied its truth, as publicly and as fully as he made the charge.

Mitigation of damages in action for libel.

Section 2. In actions for libel or slander, and unproved allegation in the pleadings that the matter charged is true, shall not be deemed proof of malice unless the jury on the whole case find that such allegation or the defense thereunder, is made with malicious intent.

Proof of malice, relating to.

Section 3. This act shall not apply to pending actions or to causes of action existing on the date of the approval of this act.

Pending actions, and existing causes of actions, not affected by this act.

Section 4. This act shall take effect when approved.

Approved March 27, 1903.