

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Acts and Resolves

As Passed by the

## Seventy-Eighth Legislature

OF THE

# STATE OF MAINE

1917

Including Acts and Resolves of the Special Session of the  
Seventy-Seventh Legislature held in 1916.

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Published by the Secretary of State, in accordance with the Resolves of the Legislature approved June 28, 1820, March 18, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

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**PUBLIC LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

As Passed by the Seventy-Eighth Legislature

**1917**

[supplied from page 1 of volume]

**CHAP. 50**

ities commission, or one member thereof, or some competent person by said commission duly appointed, annually, and at any other time on application or whenever they think necessary, shall carefully examine the tracks, rolling-stock, bridges, viaducts, and culverts of all railroads; and shall annually make a report to the governor of their official doings, therein stating the condition of the road and rolling-stock, with such facts as they deem of public interest or which he may require; and all persons managing railroads shall give the commission such information as they at any time require.'

Approved March 19, 1917.

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## Chapter 50.

An Act Requiring the Placing of Warning Signs at Grade Crossings.

*Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:*

**Sec. 1. Warning signs to be placed at grade crossings.** Within six months from the passage of this act there shall be placed and thereafter maintained warning signs on every highway or other way within the state approaching a crossing at grade of such highway or other way and the tracks of a railroad. Such signs shall be placed on each side of such crossing at such distances as shall be determined upon by the public utilities commission and the state highway commission which two commissions are hereby required and vested with the authority of causing to be located and maintained such warning signs; provided, however, that in the compact parts of cities and towns where the conditions mentioned in revised statutes chapter fifty-seven, section seventy-nine, exist and are observed and at all other places where in the judgment of the two above named commissions such signs are unnecessary, no such warning signs need be erected.

**Sec. 2. Specifications and location.** Such signs shall consist of a disc twenty-four inches in diameter, the field thereof to be white with a black border line one inch wide, and with black perpendicular and horizontal cross lines two and one-half inches wide; the reverse side of such disc to be colored black. In each of the upper quarterings shall appear in black the letter "R" five inches high, three and one-quarter inches wide, lines one inch stroke. Such signs shall be placed in conspicuous locations beside the highway at a distance of not less than three hundred feet from the nearest rail of such crossing unless local conditions in the judgment of the two commissions named in section one hereof make it reasonable to cause such sign to be located at a lesser distance from said nearest rail.

**Sec. 3. Motor Vehicles to decrease speed when approaching.** The person controlling the movement of any self-propelled vehicle upon passing any such warning sign located more than one hundred feet from a grade crossing shall reduce the speed of such vehicle so that within a distance of one hundred feet from the nearest rail of such crossing such vehicle shall not proceed at a greater speed than ten miles per hour upon

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or over such crossing. This provision shall be deemed to require a precaution in addition to those now described by law or otherwise required with reference to the duties of persons on a highway approaching a railroad grade crossing.

**Sec. 4. Penalty for violation and jurisdiction.** Any person violating the foregoing section upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than ten dollars and jurisdiction over such offenses is hereby conferred upon municipal and police courts and trials justices within the state.

**Sec. 5. Expense borne by the state.** The expense of the erection and maintenance of each warning sign mentioned in any section hereof shall be borne by the state, bills therefor to be approved by the governor and council, and paid out of any funds not otherwise appropriated.

**Sec. 6. Penalty for destruction or defacement.** Any person who unlawfully removes, throws down, injures or defaces any such warning sign, shall be fined therefor not less than ten dollars; and jurisdiction over such offenses is hereby conferred on each trial justice and municipal or police court judge, recorder and clerk, in the state.

Approved March 19, 1917.

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## Chapter 51.

An Act to Amend Section One Hundred Seventeen of Chapter Sixteen of the Revised Statutes, Relating to the Employment of Agents for Schools in Unorganized Townships.

*Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:*

**R. S., c. 16, § 117, relating to employment of school agents in unorganized townships, amended.** Section one hundred seventeen of chapter sixteen of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out the words "two thousand two hundred" in the ninth line thereof and substituting in place thereof the words 'three thousand' so that said section when amended shall read as follow:

**'Sec. 117. State superintendent may expend \$3,000.** The state superintendent of public schools may appoint agents for the several townships in which schools shall be established under section one hundred and fifteen, who shall, under the direction of the state superintendent, enumerate the pupils, assess and collect the per capita tax, employ the teacher and attend to all necessary details in connection with said school; for which purpose the state superintendent is hereby authorized to expend annually from the appropriation for the support of schools in unorganized townships a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars. Said agents in the collection of the per capita tax aforesaid, shall have the same powers and may use the same methods as collectors of taxes in towns are authorized to exercise and use for the collecting of personal and poll taxes committed to them; said agents may act as truant officers in their several townships, and may in their discretion compel the regular daily attendance at school of every child in their townships between the seventh and seventeenth anniversaries of his birth by arresting and taking to school any