

# 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]

## Chapter 127.

An Act Amending Section Ten of Chapter One Hundred and Twenty-nine of the Revised Statutes Relating to Malicious Mischiefs and Trespases.

**Preamble.** Whereas the present condition of national affairs may induce ill considered and wanton attempts to be made to injure or destroy dams, canals, mill machinery, power engines and electrical fixtures, bridges and ways, and,

Whereas the present laws of the State of Maine do not provide adequate punishment and penalties for the commission of such wilful and wanton acts, and,

Whereas, the public peace, health and safety render the provisions of the following act in the opinion of the legislature to be an emergency rendering the passage of said act immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, now therefore,

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 129, § 10, relating to malicious injuries to dams, reservoirs, etc., amended.** Section ten of chapter one hundred twenty-nine of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out from the tenth and eleventh lines thereof, the words "for not more than three years or by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars" and inserting in place thereof the words 'for any term of years or by fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars', so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

**'Sec. 10. Penalty increased.** Whoever wilfully or maliciously injures, removes or destroys any dam, reservoir, canal, trench or their appurtenances, or the gear or machinery of a mill or manufactory; draws off the water from a mill-pond, canal or trench; destroys or injures any engine or its apparatus for the extinguishment of fire, or any posts, glass caps, wires or other material used in the construction and operation of a telegraph, telephone, electric light or electric power line; removes, injures or destroys any public or toll-bridge or places any obstruction on such bridge or on any public road, with intent to injure persons or property passing thereon, shall be punished by imprisonment for any term of years or by fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars.'

**Sec. 2. Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.

Approved March 29, 1917.

## Chapter 128.

An Act to Prevent Injuries to Property used for Public Purposes, and Amending Section Four of Chapter One Hundred and Twenty-nine of the Revised Statutes.

**Preamble.** Whereas, the present condition of national affairs may induce ill considered and wanton attempts to be made to injure or destroy public buildings and water works, and,

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Whereas, the present laws of the State of Maine do not provide adequate punishment and penalties for the commission of such wilful and wanton acts, and,

Whereas, the public peace, health and safety render the provisions of the following act in the opinion of the legislature to be an emergency rendering the passage of said act immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, now therefore,

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 129, § 4, relating to malicious mischiefs to property of water systems, amended.** Section four of chapter one hundred twenty-nine of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out all of said section and substituting therefor the following, so that said section as amended shall read:

**'Sec. 4. Public buildings, wharves, fortifications, etc., included; penalty increased.** Whoever knowingly and wilfully destroys or injures any public building, armory, breast work, trench, fortification, wharf, pier or dock or whoever knowingly and wilfully destroys or injures any property, conduit, pipe line, reservoir, structure or apparatus used in supplying water to the public or to any portion thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or by imprisonment for any term of years.'

**Sec. 2. Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble this act shall take effect when approved.

Approved March 29, 1917.

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## Chapter 129.

An Act to Establish a Legislative Reference Bureau in the State Library.

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

**Sec. 1. State librarian to establish legislative reference bureau.** The state librarian is hereby authorized to establish in the state library a legislative reference bureau which shall collect, arrange, and place on file books, pamphlets and other material relating to legislation, shall prepare abstracts of laws in other states and present such other information as may be useful and necessary to the legislature in the performance of its legislative duties.

**Sec 2. May incur expense and employ assistance.** The state librarian shall employ such assistance and incur such expense as may be necessary for the proper administration of the bureau.

Approved March 29, 1917.