

# 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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THE LEWISTON JOURNAL CO.  
LEWISTON, MAINE  
1917

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

As Passed by the Seventy-Eighth Legislature

**1917**

[supplied from page 1 of volume]

## Chapter 251.

An Act to Amend Section Sixty of Chapter Four of the Revised Statutes, Relating to the Creation of a Sinking Fund by Cities and Towns.

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

**R. S., c. 4, § 60, relating to the sinking fund of towns, amended.** Section sixty of chapter four of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto the following:

'But when the indebtedness, for payment of which such sinking fund is created, is refunded or paid by such city or town by a new loan, any stocks, bonds or securities in said sinking fund, other than its own bonds, may be withdrawn therefrom and shall not be regarded as pledged for payment of the new loan unless afterward returned to the sinking fund,' so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'**Sec. 60. Securities, etc., may be withdrawn, when indebtedness is refunded or paid by new loans.** Any city or town which has a funded indebtedness may create a sinking fund for the payment and redemption of such indebtedness, may raise money by taxation for such purpose, and is restricted to and may hereafter invest such sinking fund in its own bonds, in the public funds of the United States and of any of the New England states and the state of New York, and in the bonds of the counties, cities and towns of this state, and in the bonds and obligations of any municipal or quasi-municipal corporation of this state, when such securities are a direct obligation on all the taxable property of said corporation; provided that this section shall not be construed to require any change of investments heretofore made. But when the indebtedness, for payment of which such sinking fund is created, is refunded or paid by such city or town by a new loan, any stocks, bonds or securities in said sinking fund, other than its own bonds, may be withdrawn therefrom and shall not be regarded as pledged for payment of the new loan unless afterward returned to the sinking fund.'

Approved April 7, 1917.

## Chapter 252.

An Act to Amend Sections One, Two and Three of Chapter One Hundred Forty-one of the Revised Statutes Better Defining the Duties and Increasing the Number of Medical Examiners.

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 141, § 1, relating to medical examiners and their duties, amended.** Section one of chapter one hundred forty-one of the revised statutes is hereby amended so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'**Sec. 1. Five to be appointed in Cumberland; four in York; governor to appoint as many more in each county as necessary.** The governor, with the

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advice and consent of the council, shall appoint for a term of four years, medical examiners for each county in the state, who shall be able and discreet men, learned in the science of medicine and anatomy, and bona fide residents of the county for which they are appointed. The number of medical examiners so to be appointed shall be as follows: For the counties of Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc and Waldo, one each; for the counties of Androscoggin, Franklin, Hancock, Oxford, Piscataquis, Somerset and Washington, two each; for the counties of Aroostook, Kennebec, Penobscot, three each; for the county of York, four, and for the county of Cumberland five; and they shall be appointed with reference to territorial distribution. In addition to the number of medical examiners in the several counties, as above provided for, the governor may, however, with the advice and consent of the council, appoint as many more medical examiners in the several counties as he deems necessary and proper. They shall be liable to removal from office by the governor and council at any time, for cause. Each medical examiner before entering upon the duties of his office, shall be duly sworn to the faithful performance of his duty. They shall make examinations as hereinafter provided upon the view of the dead bodies of such persons only as are supposed to have come to their death by violence or unlawful act of some person or persons, the committing of which act is punishable in accordance with sections one, two and three of chapter twenty of the revised statutes of Maine.'

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 141, § 2, relating to notifying medical examiner when dead body is found, amended.** Section two of said chapter one hundred forty-one is hereby amended by adding after the word "act" in the third line thereof, the words, 'of some person or persons, the committing of which act is punishable in accordance with sections one, two and three of chapter one hundred twenty of the revised statutes,' so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'**Sec. 2. Jurisdiction in cases of murder, manslaughter and cases of hunting fatalities.** Whoever finds a body of any person who may be supposed to have come to his death by violence or unlawful act, of some person or persons, the committing of which act is punishable in accordance with sections one, two and three of chapter one hundred twenty of the revised statutes, shall immediately notify one of the municipal officers, a police officer or constable, member of the board of selectmen, or a constable, if in a town, a member of the board of assessors, if in a plantation, and if in an unorganized place, the most readily accessible of such officials in any city, town or plantation within the county; the official so notified shall at once take charge of such body and retain custody thereof without removal until the arrival of a medical examiner, the county attorney or the attorney general. The persons so finding such body, or the official taking charge thereof shall then immediately notify the most readily accessible medical examiner in the county wherein the body is found and the county attorney thereof, who shall at once notify the attorney general.'

**Sec. 3. R. S., c. 141, § 3, relating to proceedings by medical examiner, amended.** Section three of said chapter one hundred forty-one is hereby amended by adding after the word "act" in the third line thereof, the words,

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'of some person or persons, the committing of which act is punishable in accordance with sections one, two and three of chapter one hundred twenty of the revised statutes,' so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

**Sec. 3. Jurisdiction more clearly defined.** Upon notice that there has been found or is lying within his county the body of a person who is supposed to have come to his death by violence or unlawful act, of some person or persons, the committing of which act is punishable in accordance with sections one, two and three of chapter one hundred twenty of the revised statutes, the medical examiner shall forthwith repair to the place where such body lies and take charge of the same and before said body is removed he shall reduce or cause to be reduced to writing a description of the location and position of the body and any and all facts that may be deemed important in determining the cause of death. He shall then make an autopsy in the presence of a physician and one other discreet person sufficient in his judgment to disclose such facts as may be attainable thereby which may be of assistance in determining the cause of death. He may compel the assistance of such physician and person, by subpoena, if necessary, and he shall then and there at the time of such autopsy reduce or cause to be reduced to writing every fact and circumstance disclosed by such autopsy tending to show the manner and cause of death, which record shall be signed by himself and the witnesses who have attended, who shall in addition to their names subscribe their address and place of business. In case at the time of finding of such body there be no medical examiner within the county by reason of vacancy in the office, incapacity or absence from the county, any medical examiner in an adjoining county may be notified whose duty it shall be to attend and perform all duties prescribed by this chapter as though he were a medical examiner within the county.'

Approved April 7, 1917.

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## Chapter 253.

An Act to Insure the Collection of Taxes in Unorganized Townships.

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

**Sec. 1. Inventory of personal property in unorganized township to be returned to state assessors.** Each owner or person in charge or control of personal property such as would not be exempt from taxation if it were located in a city or town of this state, and not otherwise subject to taxation under existing laws of the State of Maine, which on the first day of April in each year is situated, whether permanently or temporarily, within an unorganized township, shall, on or before the first day of May in each year, return to the board of state assessors a complete list of such property upon blanks furnished by said board; and such property shall be assessed by said board for a just proportion of all state and county taxes; but none of the property described in this section shall be included in the state valuation as made for unorganized towns.