

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

Ninety-sixth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Ninety-sixth Legislature

1953

Whereas, it appears that existing methods of assessment of forest lands for purposes of taxation are at substantial variance among assessing authorities, despite the constitutional requirement of state-wide uniformity of assessment, and otherwise contrary to sound public policy; now, therefore,

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

R. S., c. 81, §§ 156-157, additional. Chapter 81 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto 2 new sections, to be numbered 156 and 157, to read as follows:

'Forest Lands

Sec. 156. Policy. It is hereby declared to be the public policy of the state, by which all officials of the state and of its municipal subdivisions are to be guided in the performance of their official duties, to encourage by the maintenance of adequate incentive the operation of all forest lands on a sustained yield basis by their owners, and to establish and maintain uniformity in methods of assessment for purposes of taxation according to the productivity of the land, giving due weight in the determination of assessed value to location and public facilities as factors contributing to advantage in operation.

Sec. 157. Assessment. An assessment of forest land for purposes of taxation shall be held to be in excess of just value by any court of competent jurisdiction, upon proof by the owner that the tax burden imposed by the assessment creates an incentive to abandon the land, or to strip the land, or otherwise to operate contrary to the public policy herein declared. In proof of his contention the owner shall show that by reason of the burden of the tax he is unable by efficient operation of the forest land on a sustained yield basis to obtain an adequate annual net return commensurate with the risk involved.

For the purposes of this section forest land shall be held to include any single tract of land exceeding 25 acres in area under one ownership which is devoted to the growing of trees for the purpose of cutting for commercial use.'

Effective August 8, 1953

Chapter 112

AN ACT Relating to Motor Vehicle Accident Reports.

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

R. S., c. 13, § 6, amended. The 3rd and 6th paragraphs of section 6 of

chapter 13 of the revised statutes, as repealed and replaced by chapter 306 of the public laws of 1945, and as amended, are hereby further amended to read as follows:

'The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injuries to or death of any person or property damage to the estimated amount of ~~\$50~~ \$100 or more, or some person acting for him, shall, immediately by the quickest means of communication, give notice of the accident either to a state police officer, sheriff or other police official, or to the police department of the municipality wherein the accident occurred. Any person failing to comply with the requirements of this paragraph shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100, or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Every such notice received by any such official or department shall be promptly investigated.'

'The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person or property damage to the estimated amount of ~~\$50~~ \$100 or more, or some person acting for him, shall, within 48 hours after the accident, make a written report of it to the chief of the state police. The chief may require drivers of vehicles involved in any such accident to file supplemental reports whenever the original report is insufficient in the opinion of the chief.'

Effective August 8, 1953

Chapter 113

AN ACT Relating to Turning Movements and Required Signals for Motor Vehicles.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 19, § 107-A, amended. The 1st paragraph of section 107-A of chapter 19 of the revised statutes, as enacted by chapter 301 of the public laws of 1951, is hereby amended to read as follows:

'No person shall turn a vehicle at an intersection unless the vehicle is in proper position upon the roadway as required in section 107, or turn a vehicle to enter a private road or driveway or otherwise turn a vehicle from a direct course, or move right or left upon a roadway unless and until such movement can be made with reasonable safety. No person shall so turn any vehicle ~~designed for the purpose of transportation of persons, other~~