

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS, RESOLVES AND CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTIONS

AS PASSED BY THE

One Hundred and Sixth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

Published by the Director of Legislative Research in accordance with the Revised Statutes of 1964, Title 3, Section 164, Subsection 6.

THE KNOWLTON AND McLEARY COMPANY
FARMINGTON, MAINE
1973

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED BY THE
One Hundred and Fifth Legislature
AT THE
SPECIAL SESSION

January 24, 1972

to

March 10, 1972

CHAPTER 577

AN ACT Relating to Actions to Quiet Title to the Fee Interest in Discontinued Roads and Ways.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, certain construction projects important to the public interest are presently being delayed because of the inability to determine the fee interest in discontinued roads and ways; and

Whereas, the following legislation is vitally necessary in order to permit the establishment of title to said discontinued roads and ways so as to permit said construction to go forward in the public interest; and

Whereas, an inability to determine the fee interest in discontinued roads and ways deters the immediate demolition of old, dilapidated and unsafe buildings; and

Whereas, said buildings constitute a health and safety hazard to the people of Maine and their destruction would remove such a hazard; and

Whereas, the construction of new buildings will greatly enhance the economic base of the communities in which such buildings are constructed and such new buildings will be in compliance with modern health and safety standards and such benefits will inure to the people of the State; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 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:

R. S., T. 14, §§ 6659 - 6661, additional. Title 14 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding 3 new sections to read as follows:

§ 6659. Action by abutters of discontinued road or way

Any person or persons claiming an estate of freehold in a discontinued road or way, or in a portion thereof, or an interest in common and undivided therein, may maintain an action as provided in sections 6651 to 6654, or as provided in sections 6655 to 6657 in regard to said discontinued road or way, or portion thereof, without the need or necessity of showing 4 years of possession next prior to the filing of the complaint, provided that the claim of said person or persons to the discontinued road or way, or portion thereof, is based upon fee simple ownership of the land immediately adjoining said discontinued road or way.

§ 666o. Burden of proof

In the trial of any action regarding title to a discontinued road or way, or portion thereof, brought pursuant to a decree under section 6654 or pursuant to sections 6655 to 6657, or of a counterclaim asserted pursuant to section 6654, the burden of proof concerning the construction of any deed or conveyance shall be borne by the party which is adverse to the party so owning said land immediately adjoining the discontinued road or way.

§ 666i. Application

Sections 6659 and 6660 shall apply only in built-up areas as defined in Title 29, section 1252, subsection 3-A in such cities and towns whose population exceeds 5,000 according to the last Federal Decennial Census.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

Effective February 14, 1972

CHAPTER 578

AN ACT to Revise Certain Laws Relating to Banks.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, many of the banks in Maine utilize the services of many banks in Massachusetts and New York as correspondent banks; and

Whereas, all of the above correspondent banks and all of the Federal Reserve Banks throughout this country are closed on Columbus Day; and

Whereas, substantial problems are created concerning the transfer of funds, servicing of notes, and the maintaining of reserves when Maine banks are open to receive deposits and transfer funds while their correspondent banks and the Federal Reserve Banks are closed; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 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., T. 9, § 131, amended. The first sentence of section 131 of Title 9 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

Any day of public thanksgiving, mourning or disaster, proclaimed or appointed by the Governor or by the President of the United States, the first day of January, Washington's Birthday, the 3rd Monday in February, Pa-