

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS  
OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 5, 1977 to July 25, 1977

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,  
TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

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PORTLAND LITHOGRAPH COMPANY  
PORTLAND, MAINE  
1977

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PUBLIC LAWS  
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4. Penalty. A member, officer, employee or agent of an authority who violates the provisions of subsection 2 shall be guilty of a civil violation and shall be liable for a fine not exceeding \$200 for each such violation. For purposes of applying penalties under this subsection, a separate violation shall be deemed to have occurred with respect to each separate act of disclosure.

Sec. 2. 30 MRSA § 4764, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 470, § 18, is repealed.

Effective October 24, 1977

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## CHAPTER 257

### AN ACT Relating to Abandoned Safety Deposit Boxes.

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

10 MRSA § 3751, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

At the expiration of 5 years after the opening of the safe or box as herein provided, the bank or company shall then notify the person in whose name the safe or box stands on its books, by a notice in writing in a securely closed, postpaid, certified letter, return receipt by addressee requested, directed to that person or persons at his or their post-office address as recorded upon the books of that bank or company, that if the amount then due for the use of such safe or box is not paid within 60 days from the date of such notice, the aforesaid sealed package of the contents of the safe or box shall be deemed presumptively abandoned and shall be turned over to the State Treasury, which shall issue its receipt to that bank or company. If the certified letter is not delivered to the addressee, the bank or company shall give notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality in which the bank is located. The contents of this notice shall be the same as that provided herein for notice by mail. At the expiration of 5 years after the delivery of the sealed package to the State Treasury, the State shall cause the package to be opened and its contents sold, except that any article contained within the sealed package deemed by the Treasurer of State to be unsaleable or without value shall be destroyed. From the proceeds of the sale, the bank or company shall be paid the rent due it and costs of notice provided herein, the remainder shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the General Fund for the use of the State.

Thereafter, no action shall be maintained in any court in this State by any person in whose name such safe or box stood, or his heirs, successors or assigns for any contents of such safe or box against any bank which delivered the sealed package to the State Treasury in accordance with this section. Thereafter, any lawful claimant may petition the Governor for the return of the sealed package if it has not been destroyed, or for the payment of such sum, and no more, realized by the State from the aforesaid sale. In his petition, the claimant shall state fully the facts showing the basis of his right,

title and interest in the safe or box. The Governor, after hearing, shall determine who are lawful claimants and shall authorize payment by the Treasurer of State from the General Fund of such claimants.

Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing any bank or company from enforcing its lien as provided in sections 4001, et seq.

Effective October 24, 1977

## CHAPTER 258

**AN ACT to Increase the Tax on Fire Insurance Premiums to Aid in Arson Investigation by the State Fire Marshal's Office.**

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

25 MRSA § 2399, 2nd ¶, 1st sentence, as repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 727, § 1, is amended to read:

Every fire insurance company or association which does business or collects premiums or assessments in the State shall pay to the State Tax Assessor, in addition to the taxes now imposed by law to be paid by such companies or associations, ~~6/10th of 1%~~  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 1% of the gross direct premiums for fire risks written in the State, less the amount of all direct return premiums thereon and all dividends paid to policyholders on direct fire premiums.

Effective October 24, 1977

## CHAPTER 259

**AN ACT to Prohibit the Use of Offensive Names for Geographic Features and Other Places Within the State of Maine.**

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA c. 27 is enacted to read:

### CHAPTER 27

#### NAMES OF PLACES

##### § 1101. Definitions

For the purposes of this section, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following words shall have the following meanings: