

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FOURTH REVISION.

THE  
REVISED STATUTES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

PASSED AUGUST 29, 1883, AND TAKING EFFECT JANUARY 1, 1884.

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BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE.



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## CHAPTER 53.

## TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

- SEC. 1. Owners of telegraphs, are liable for errors and unnecessary delays in transmitting dispatches. All dispatches to be sent in the order received, under penalty. Penalty for falsifying dispatch, or divulging contents.
2. Operator, or other employe is not exonerated in case of fraud, nor is the company, from liabilities at common law.
3. Person desiring to disconnect or remove telegraph wires, first to notify company. Penalty for neglect.
4. How damages for taking land are to be estimated and paid.

SEC. 1. A person or company owning or using a line of telegraph, wholly or partly in the state, for any error or unnecessary delay in writing out, transmitting or delivering a dispatch within its delivery limits, making it less valuable to the person interested therein, is liable for the whole amount paid on such dispatch; all dispatches shall be transmitted in the order in which they are received, under a penalty of one hundred dollars, to be recovered by the person whose dispatch is wilfully postponed; an operator or agent who designedly falsifies a dispatch, forfeits not less than twenty nor more than one hundred dollars, to be recovered in an action of debt; and in case of his avoidance or inability to pay such judgment, the person or company employing him forfeits a like sum; and if such operator or agent wilfully divulges any part of the contents of a private dispatch intrusted to him for transmission or delivery, he shall be fined not exceeding one hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than three months.

Owners of telegraphs liable for errors or delays in sending dispatches: to be sent in the order that they are received, under penalty. R. S., c. 53, § 1, 60 Me., 29, 33.

—penalty for falsifying or divulging contents of dispatch.

SEC. 2. Nothing herein exonerates telegraph operators, agents, clerks or other officers, from liability for fraud committed or attempted by means of telegraphic communication; or the company from any liability existing at common law for the neglect or wrong-doing of such company or its agents. (a)

Officers responsible for frauds, and company subject to common law liabilities. R. S., c. 53, § 2.

SEC. 3. Whoever desires to disconnect or remove the wires of a telegraph company in order to move a building, or for any other purpose, shall leave a written statement of the time and place at its office, if it has any in that town, twenty-four hours before the time fixed; if not, he shall send it by mail, post paid, to its nearest office, three days before the time; and whoever disconnects or removes such wires without first giving such notice, shall be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than three years.

Person desiring to disconnect wires, shall notify company. R. S., c. 53, § 3.

—penalty for neglect.

SEC. 4. When a telegraph company is authorized to locate its line over the lands of others, and the parties cannot agree on the damages, they shall be estimated, secured and paid in the manner provided in case of land taken for railroads.

Land damages, how estimated and paid. R. S., c. 53, § 4. See c. 51, §§ 19 to 27.

(a) 43 Me., 495; 60 Me., 29.