

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTH REVISION

THE  
REVISED STATUTES

OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE

PASSED SEPTEMBER 20, 1944, AND TAKING EFFECT  
DECEMBER 30, 1944

VOLUME I



By the Authority of the Legislature

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the carrying into effect of the provisions of this chapter. He is further authorized to prepare and distribute, subject to like approval, such general information relative to this chapter as he may deem expedient.

**Sec. 16. Penalty for violations by private individuals and election officials. R. S. c. 9, § 15.** Whoever not being entitled to vote under the provisions of this chapter so votes or attempts so to vote, or whoever being entitled to vote under the provisions of this chapter knowingly votes or attempts to vote in violation of any of its provisions, or whoever being an official charged with the performance of any duty under the provisions of this chapter wilfully or negligently violates any of its provisions, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500, and by imprisonment for not more than 11 months.

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## CHAPTER 7.

### PETITIONS FOR PEOPLE'S VETO AND DIRECT INITIATIVE.

**Sec. 1. Petitions for veto by referendum, provision for. 1931, c. 181, § 1.** Upon request of any voter of the state, made in writing within 10 days after the adjournment of any session of the legislature, the secretary of state shall forthwith cause to be printed and delivered to such voter, at the expense of the state, an adequate supply of petitions prepared for the use of the voters of the state for invoking the people's veto by referendum, as provided in part third of article IV of the constitution, on such act or acts or part or parts of any act or acts as may be designated in such written request.

**Sec. 2. Petitions for direct initiative, provisions for. 1931, c. 181, § 2.** Upon request of any voter of the state, made in writing at any time, the secretary of state shall forthwith cause to be printed and delivered to such voter, at the expense of the state, an adequate supply of petitions prepared for the use of the voters of the state for invoking the direct initiative, as provided in part third of article IV of the constitution for such act as may be designated in such written request.

**Sec. 3. Verification and certification of petitions, provisions for. 1931, c. 181, § 3.** All petitions prepared in accordance with the provisions of sections 1 to 5, inclusive, shall have the clauses providing for the verification and the certification required by the terms of section 20 of article IV, part third of the constitution so worded and phrased that a single verification may be sufficient for any number of separate petitions when fastened together so as to constitute a single petition and so that separate single certifications by one or more clerks of cities, towns, or plantations may in the same manner be sufficient to cover the certification of all names of voters in such cities, towns, or plantations appearing on any one or more of the separate single petitions so fastened together.

**Sec. 4. Instructions to be printed on each petition. 1931, c. 181, § 4.** Upon each separate petition, provided in accordance with the provisions of sections 1 to 5, inclusive, there shall be printed in bold face type full instructions, to be prepared by the attorney-general, directing the voters, the persons circulating the petitions, and the clerks of the cities, towns, and plantations who may be required to certify signatures, as to the constitutional and statutory requirements

for signing, circulating, verifying, and certifying the same. Such instructions shall call particular attention to all irregularities which prior to the date of the printing of such petitions have been held to invalidate either single signatures or complete petitions.

**Sec. 5. Hearing on validity of petitions, how held.** 1931, c. 181, § 5. Whenever the governor shall deem that a hearing is necessary for the purpose of determining the validity of any petition filed for the purpose of securing the people's veto in accordance with the provisions of part third of article IV of the constitution, such hearing shall be held in the chamber of the senate on a day to be fixed by the governor not longer than 100 days after the adjournment of the legislature passing the act against which such veto is sought to be invoked. Whenever such a hearing shall be deemed necessary in connection with any petition filed for the purpose of invoking the direct initiative such hearing shall be held in the same place and manner not later than 15 days after the date when such petitions are filed with the secretary of state.

**Sec. 6. Expenditures under initiative and referendum regulated.** 1931, c. 203. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association, committee, organization, or corporation to make any expenditure or incur any liability either for printing, publication, postage, clerk hire, newspaper advertising, renting of halls or other places, soliciting agents, transporting of voters, or any other act or thing calculated to induce or procure any person or persons to vote either for or against any question submitted to the vote of the people under the provisions of part third of article IV of the constitution unless on the dates hereinafter set forth next ensuing after the making of any such expenditure or incurring of any such liability such person, firm, association, committee, organization, or corporation shall report the same to the secretary of state setting forth in detail the nature and amount of the expenditure made or liability incurred with a proper designation of the question on behalf of which the expenditure was made or liability incurred. For such expenditures as are made and such liabilities as are incurred, during the period prior to the 30 days next preceding any such election, such report shall be made on the 1st day of each month next after such expenditure is made or such liability is incurred, and thereafter such a report shall be made each week, such weekly reports to be made so as to reach the office of the secretary of state not later than 10 o'clock in the forenoon of Wednesday in each week. The last report, to be made in accordance with this provision, which shall reach the office of the secretary of state not later than 10 o'clock in the forenoon on the Wednesday next preceding any such election, shall include in addition to such expenditures as have been made and such liabilities as have been incurred up to the time of the making of such report, a statement of such sum or sums, if any, as such person, firm, association, committee, organization, or corporation proposes to make or incur thereafter in connection with such campaign.

The secretary of state shall, 30 days before the date of any such election, publish in all the daily and weekly papers in the state a statement setting forth the total expenditures made in accordance with the information filed with him under the terms of the foregoing paragraph by any person, firm, association, committee, organization, or corporation giving for each question a list of the parties making such expenditures and the amounts thereof, which list shall for each question be arranged alphabetically. He shall revise and republish such figures in each of such papers 15 days as nearly as may be before such election and again in the daily papers of the state on the Friday next preceding any such election.

Any person, firm, association, committee, organization, or corporation which shall expend any money or incur any liability in connection with any such question, in excess of \$5, without reporting it as above provided or who subsequent to the filing of such last report shall expend for any purpose aforesaid more than the amount or amounts set forth in such pre-election report, shall be punished by fine of not more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months.

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## CHAPTER 8.

### CORRUPT PRACTICES.

See Const., Me., Art. IX, § 13, re bribery, etc.

**Sec. 1. Application to caucuses, primaries, and to elections. R. S. c. 10, § 1.** The provisions of this section and the 7 following sections shall apply to the election of all officers for whom ballots shall be cast pursuant to the provisions of chapter 5, and to the election of all officers to be voted for by the legislature or either branch thereof, the board of aldermen, municipal officers, common council or city council of any city, to all caucuses and primary elections preliminary to any such other elections and to all candidates to be voted for at such elections, caucuses, and primary elections. The term "caucuses and primary elections" shall include:

I. All meetings held to nominate a candidate for office or to elect delegates to a nominating convention;

II. Nominating conventions of such delegates; and

III. Caucuses of members of the legislature or either branch thereof, of the board of aldermen, common council, or city council of any city.

**Sec. 2. Definitions; appointment of treasurer or political agent to be filed with secretary of state. R. S. c. 10, § 2.** The term "political committee" shall include every committee or combination of three or more persons to aid or promote the success or defeat of any political party or principal in any such election, or to aid or take part in the nomination or election of any candidate for public office. The term "treasurer" shall include all persons appointed by any political committee to receive or disburse moneys to aid or promote the success or defeat of any such party, principal, or candidate. The term "political agent" shall include all persons appointed by any candidate before any such election, caucus, or primary election to assist him in his candidacy. No person shall act as any such treasurer or political agent unless, after his appointment and before the election for which he is appointed, a writing designating him as such treasurer or political agent shall be filed with the secretary of state, except that, in case the duties of such treasurer or political agent shall relate to any city, ward, or town election exclusively, or to any caucus or primary election preliminary thereto, such writing shall be filed with the clerk of the municipality within which such candidate resides instead of with the secretary of state. The treasurer of a representative-class committee shall file such writing with the town clerk of the town within which he resides. Every such writing shall designate the particular period, election, caucus, or primary election during which such treasurership or political agency shall continue. The treasurer or political agent