

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REVISED STATUTES
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
1954

1959 CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT

ANNOTATED

IN FIVE VOLUMES

VOLUME 2

**Place in Pocket of Corresponding
Volume of Main Set**

THE MICHIE COMPANY
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
1959

ment in performing functions on behalf of the federal government relating to atomic energy, and in the administration of this chapter or any matter pertaining thereto, and for that purpose may, with the approval of the coordinator, enter into agreements or cooperative arrangements with the federal government.

Such department or agency may receive, administer and disburse any funds or contributions received from the federal government for the purposes mentioned herein. (1957, c. 210, § 8.)

Chapter 53. Corporations.

Sections 72-A to 72-K. Simplification of Fiduciary Security Transfers.
Sections 127 to 135-A. Foreign Corporations.

General Provisions.

Sec. 2. Acts of incorporation altered or repealed.

Cited in *First Nat. Bank of Boston v. Maine Turnpike Authority*, 153 Me. 131, 136 A. (2d) 699.

Organization under General Law.

Sec. 8. Purposes.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the organization of small business investment companies organized to carry out the provisions of the Small Business Investment Act enacted by the 85th Congress of the United States, and acts amendatory thereto and additional thereto and which become such corporations under said Small Business Investment Act of 1958. Such small business investment companies shall not be deemed banking corporations or institutions. (R. S. c. 49, § 8. 1959, c. 178, § 4.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1959 amendment added the last paragraph to this section. As the rest of the section was not affected by the amendment, it is not set out.

Corporate Powers. Meetings.

Sec. 19. Issue of stock for property and services; issue of rights or options.—Any corporation may purchase mines, manufactories and other property necessary for its business and the stock of any company or companies owning, mining, manufacturing or producing materials or other property necessary for its business, and issue stock to the amount of the value thereof in payment therefor, and may likewise issue stock for services rendered to such corporation and the stock so issued shall be fully paid stock and not liable to any further call or payment thereon, and may create and issue rights or options entitling the holders thereof to purchase from the corporation any shares of its stock for such consideration not less than par and, in the case of stock having no par value, in accordance with the provisions of section 20 hereof, upon such conditions as the stockholders or the directors, acting under authority granted by the stockholders, may prescribe: and in the absence of actual fraud in the transaction, the judgment of the directors as to the value of the property purchased, services rendered and rights or options granted, shall be conclusive. (R. S. c. 49, § 18. 1955, c. 284.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1955 amendment inserted the provisions authorizing a corporation to create and issue rights and options.

Sec. 23. Power to make and alter by-laws.—The power to make and alter by-laws shall be in the stockholders but any corporation may, in the certificate of organization or in any amendment thereto or by a provision of the

by-laws, confer that power upon the directors. By-laws made by the directors under power so conferred may be altered or repealed by the directors or stockholders. Corporations may, among other provisions, determine by their by-laws the manner of calling and conducting meetings; the number of members that constitute a quorum; the number of votes to be given by shareholders; the date as of which stockholders shall be entitled to vote at any meeting or to receive dividends or rights and whether or not stock transfer books shall be closed; by whom any and all officers, except president and directors, shall be elected; by whom vacancies in the board of directors or other offices may be filled; the tenure of the several offices; the mode of voting by proxy and of selling shares for neglect to pay assessments; and may enforce such by-laws by penalties not exceeding \$20. Public utility corporations organized under the laws of this state but doing business wholly outside the limits of this state may provide by their by-laws for the holding of meetings of their stockholders outside the state. (R. S. c. 49, § 22. 1959, c. 142.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1959 amendment added the last sentence to this section.

Officers and Their Duties.

Sec. 32. Officers of corporation; qualifications of directors; treasurer to give bond; clerk sworn; directors divided into classes; may hold meetings without this state.—Corporations shall have a president, directors, clerk, treasurer and any other desirable officers. Such officers shall be chosen annually and shall continue in office until others are chosen and qualified in their stead. There shall not be less than 3 directors, one of whom shall be by them elected president. Directors need not be stockholders if the charter or by-laws of the corporation so provide. The treasurer shall give bond for the faithful discharge of his duties, in such sum and with such sureties as are required. The clerk shall be sworn and shall record all votes of the corporation in a book kept for that purpose; nothing herein shall prohibit corporations from providing by their by-laws for the division of their directors into classes and their election for a longer term than 1 year. After the certificate of organization required by law is filed in the office of the secretary of state, directors of all corporations may hold meetings without the state and there transact business and perform all corporate acts not expressly required by statute to be performed within the state. Directors of corporations may act through committees whose powers shall be defined in the by-laws. (R. S. c. 49, § 31. 1955, c. 103. 1957, c. 397, § 35. 1959, c. 129.)

Effect of amendments. — The 1955 amendment deleted the words "not charged with the performance of any public duty within the state," formerly appearing after the word "corporations" in the seventh sentence, and the word "such," formerly appearing before the word "corporations" in the eighth sentence.

The 1957 amendment substituted "which" for "who", which formerly appeared in the fourth sentence.

The 1959 amendment rewrote the fourth sentence of this section, which formerly required directors to be and remain stockholders or be members of another corporation owning stock.

Annual Returns.

Sec. 41. Contents; filed.—Every corporation incorporated under the laws of this state, excepting religious, charitable, educational and benevolent corporations, and excepting such corporations as may be organized under the provisions of the first 20 sections of chapter 54, and such corporations as are liable to a franchise tax other than the tax provided for in section 106 of chapter 16, and such corporations as have been or may hereafter be excused from filing annual returns

under the provisions of section 45 so long as their franchises remain unused shall, on or before the 1st day of June, annually, make a return to the secretary of state, signed by its president or treasurer, verified under oath, containing the names of its directors, president, treasurer and clerk, with the residence of each, the location of its principal office in this state and the amount of its authorized capital stock; and for this purpose the secretary of state shall furnish blanks in proper form and safely keep in his office all such returns. (R. S. c. 49, § 39. 1949, c. 349, § 87. 1955, c. 405, § 33.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1955 amendment substituted “20” for “19” in line four.

Simplification of Fiduciary Security Transfers.

Effective date.—P. L. 1959, c. 244, adding 3 thereof as follows: “This act shall take sections 72-A to 72-K, provided in section effect January 1, 1960.”

Sec. 72-A. Definitions.—In sections 72-A to 72-K, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Assignment” includes any written stock power, bond power, bill of sale, deed, declaration of trust or other instrument of transfer.

“Claim of beneficial interest” includes a claim of any interest by a decedent’s legatee, distributee, heir or creditor, a beneficiary under a trust, a ward, a beneficial owner of a security registered in the name of a nominee, or a minor owner of a security registered in the name of a custodian, or a claim of any similar interest, whether the claim is asserted by the claimant or by a fiduciary or by any other authorized person on his behalf, and includes a claim that the transfer would be in breach of fiduciary duties.

“Corporation” means a private or public corporation, association or trust issuing a security.

“Fiduciary” means an executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, assignee for the benefit of creditors, committee, conservator, curator, custodian, partner, agent, officer of a corporation, public or private, public officer, nominee or any other person acting in a fiduciary capacity, for any person, trust or estate.

“Person” includes an individual, a corporation, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership or association, 2 or more persons having a joint or common interest, or any other legal or commercial entity.

“Security” includes any share of stock, bond, debenture, note or other security issued by a corporation which is registered as to ownership on the books of the corporation.

“Transfer” means a change on the books of a corporation in the registered ownership of a security.

“Transfer agent” means a person employed or authorized by a corporation to transfer securities issued by the corporation. (1959, c. 244, § 1.)

Sec. 72-B. Registration in the name of a fiduciary.—A corporation or transfer agent registering a security in the name of a person who is a fiduciary or who is described as a fiduciary is not bound to inquire into the existence, extent, or correct description of the fiduciary relationship, and thereafter the corporation and its transfer agent may assume without inquiry that the newly registered owner continues to be the fiduciary until the corporation or transfer agent receives written notice that the fiduciary is no longer acting as such with respect to the particular security. (1959, c. 244, § 1.)

Sec. 72-C. Assignment by a fiduciary.—Except as otherwise provided in sections 72-A to 72-K, a corporation or transfer agent making a transfer of a security pursuant to an assignment by a fiduciary:

I. May assume without inquiry that the assignment, even though to the fiduciary himself or to his nominee, is within his authority and capacity and is not in breach of his fiduciary duties;

II. May assume without inquiry that the fiduciary has complied with any controlling instrument and with the law of the jurisdiction governing the fiduciary relationship, including any law requiring the fiduciary to obtain court approval of the transfer; and

III. Is not charged with notice of and is not bound to obtain or examine any court record or any recorded or unrecorded document relating to the fiduciary relationship or the assignment, even though the record or document is in its possession. (1959, c. 244, § 1.)

Sec. 72-D. Evidence of appointment or incumbency.—A corporation or transfer agent making a transfer pursuant to an assignment by a fiduciary who is not the registered owner shall obtain the following evidence of appointment or incumbency:

I. In the case of a fiduciary appointed or qualified by a court, a certificate issued by or under the direction or supervision of that court or an officer thereof and dated within 60 days before the transfer; or

II. In any other case, a copy of a document showing the appointment or a certificate issued by or on behalf of a person reasonably believed by the corporation or transfer agent to be responsible or, in the absence of such a document or certificate, other evidence reasonably deemed by the corporation or transfer agent to be appropriate. Corporations and transfer agents may adopt standards with respect to evidence of appointment or incumbency under this subsection provided such standards are not manifestly unreasonable. Neither the corporation nor transfer agent is charged with notice of the contents of any document obtained pursuant to this subsection except to the extent that the contents relate directly to the appointment or incumbency. (1959, c. 244, § 1.)

Sec. 72-E. Adverse claims.—

I. A person asserting a claim of beneficial interest adverse to the transfer of a security pursuant to an assignment by a fiduciary may give the corporation or transfer agent written notice of the claim. The corporation or transfer agent is not put on notice unless the written notice identifies the claimant, the registered owner and the issue of which the security is a part, provides an address for communications directed to the claimant and is received before the transfer. Nothing in sections 72-A to 72-K relieves the corporation or transfer agent of any liability for making or refusing to make the transfer after it is so put on notice, unless it proceeds in the manner authorized in subsection II.

II. As soon as practicable after the presentation of a security for transfer pursuant to an assignment by a fiduciary, a corporation or transfer agent which has received notice of a claim of beneficial interest adverse to the transfer may send notice of the presentation by registered or certified mail to the claimant at the address given by him. If the corporation or transfer agent so mails such a notice it shall withhold the transfer for 30 days after the mailing and shall then make the transfer unless restrained by a court order. (1959, c. 244, § 1.)

Sec. 72-F. Nonliability of corporation and transfer agent.—A corporation or transfer agent incurs no liability to any person by making a transfer or otherwise acting in a manner authorized by sections 72-A to 72-K. (1959, c. 244, § 1.)

Sec. 72-G. Nonliability of 3rd person.—

I. No person who participates in the acquisition, disposition, assignment or transfer of a security by or to a fiduciary, including a person who guarantees the signature of the fiduciary, is liable for participation in any breach of fiduciary duty by reason of failure to inquire whether the transaction involves such a breach unless it is shown that he acted with actual knowledge that the proceeds of the transaction were being or were to be used wrongfully for the individual benefit of the fiduciary or that the transaction was otherwise in breach of duty.

II. If a corporation or transfer agent makes a transfer pursuant to an assignment by a fiduciary, a person who guaranteed the signature of the fiduciary is not liable on the guarantee to any person to whom the corporation or transfer agent by reason of sections 72-A to 72-K incurs no liability.

III. This section does not impose any liability upon the corporation or its transfer agent. (1959, c. 244, § 1.)

Sec. 72-H. Territorial application.—

I. The rights and duties of a corporation and its transfer agents in registering a security in the name of a fiduciary or in making a transfer of a security pursuant to an assignment by a fiduciary are governed by the law of the jurisdiction under whose laws the corporation is organized.

II. Sections 72-A to 72-K apply to the rights and duties of a person other than the corporation and its transfer agents with regard to acts and omissions in this state in connection with the acquisition, disposition, assignment or transfer of a security by or to a fiduciary and of a person who guarantees in this state the signature of a fiduciary in connection with such a transaction. (1959, c. 244, § 1.)

Sec. 72-I. Tax obligations.—Sections 72-A to 72-K do not affect any obligation of a corporation or transfer agent with respect to estate, inheritance or other taxes imposed by the laws of this state. (1959, c. 244, § 1.)

Sec. 72-J. Uniformity of interpretation.—Sections 72-A to 72-K shall be so construed as to effectuate the general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact them. (1959, c. 244, § 1.)

Sec. 72-K. Short title.—Sections 72-A to 72-K may be cited as the Uniform Act for Simplification of Fiduciary Security Transfers. (1959, c. 244, § 1.)

Registration or Transfer of Securities to or by Fiduciaries.

Secs. 73, 74. Repealed by Public Laws 1959, c. 244, § 2.

Effective date.—P. L. 1959, c. 244, re- section 3 thereof as follows: "This act shall pealing sections 73 and 74, provided in take effect January 1, 1960."

Rights of Minority Stockholders

Sec. 84. Corporation not to sell franchises or entire property without consent of stockholders.

II. To effect a consolidation under the provisions of the foregoing subsection and subject to the provisions of this and the 11 following sections, any 2 or more corporations organized or to be organized under the provisions of this chapter or existing under the laws of this state may consolidate into a single corporation, which may be any one of said corporations or a new corporation organized under the laws of this state to be formed by means of such consolidation, by entering into an agreement duly authorized by a majority of the directors of the respective corporations and signed by the duly authorized officers and under the respective seals of said corporations, prescribing the terms

and conditions of the consolidation, the mode of carrying the same into effect, when the consolidation shall be effective, whether or not the consolidated corporation shall be one of the constituent corporations or a new corporation created by such consolidation and stating in such altered form as the circumstances of the case may require such other facts as are necessary to be set out in the certificate of organization of corporations organized under this chapter and as are pertinent in the case of a consolidation, the manner of converting the capital stock of each of such consolidating corporations or, if the consolidated corporation is to be one of the constituent corporations and the outstanding shares of such surviving constituent corporation are not to be changed, the shares of each of the other constituent corporations, into the stock or obligations of such consolidated corporation together with such other provisions and details as shall be deemed necessary to perfect the consolidation. Said agreement shall be acknowledged by one of the executing officers of each of the consolidating corporations before an officer authorized by the laws of this state to take acknowledgements of deeds, to be the respective act, deed and agreement of each of said corporations. (1955, c. 357, § 1)

III. Subject to provisions of by-laws with reference to closing stock books prior to stockholders' meetings, said consolidation agreement shall be submitted to the stockholders of record of each corporation at a meeting thereof called separately for the purpose of taking the same into consideration, and at said meeting a vote in person or by proxy shall be taken for the adoption or rejection of said agreement, and if the votes of stockholders of each corporation representing a majority of the voting power, on a proposal to consolidate said corporation with another, shall be for the adoption of said agreement, then that fact shall be certified on said agreement by the clerk or secretary of each corporation and the agreement so signed, acknowledged, adopted and certified, after it has been examined by the attorney general and been by him certified to be properly drawn and signed and to be conformable to the constitution and laws of this state, shall be recorded in the registry of deeds in the county where the said consolidated corporation is located, and within 60 days after the day of the meeting at which said consolidation agreement is adopted by the stockholders, a copy thereof certified by such register shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state, who shall enter the date of filing thereon and on the original agreement, certified as aforesaid, to be kept by the consolidated corporation, and shall record said copy. From the time of filing the copy of such agreement in the office of the secretary of state, said agreement shall be taken and deemed to be the agreement of consolidation of the said corporations. Where the time such consolidation shall be effective is fixed by some event other than filing such copy with the secretary of state or a specified date, the clerk of each such constituent corporation shall certify to the secretary of state that the event fixing the effective date has occurred. Said original consolidation agreement or a certified copy thereof and a certified copy of such clerks' certificates shall be evidence of the existence of such consolidated corporation and of the observance and performance of all acts and conditions necessary to have been observed and performed precedent to such consolidation. (1955, c. 357, § 2)

VII. When said agreement is so signed, acknowledged adopted, recorded and filed and any required clerks' certificates of the occurrence of events fixing the effective date have been so filed or the effective date specified in said agreement has arrived, the separate existence of all of the constituent corporations or of all of such constituent corporations except the one into which such constituent corporations shall have been consolidated shall cease; and the constituent corporations, whether consolidated into a new corporation or merged into one of such constituent corporations, as the case may be, shall become the consolidated corporation by the name provided in said agreement, possessing all the rights, privileges, powers, franchises and immunities as well of a public

as of a private nature, and being subject to all the liabilities, restrictions and duties of each of such corporations so consolidated and all and singular the rights, privileges, powers, franchises and immunities of each of said corporations and all property, real, personal and mixed, wheresoever located, and all debts due to any of said constituent corporations on whatever account, and all other things in action of or belonging to each of said corporations shall be vested in the consolidated corporation; and all property, rights, privileges, powers, franchises and immunities and all and every other interest shall be thereafter as effectually the property of the consolidated corporation as they were of the several and respective constituent corporations and the title to any real estate, whether by deed or otherwise, under the laws of this state, vested in any of such constituent corporations, shall not revert or be in any way impaired by reason thereof, provided that all rights of creditors and all liens upon the property of any of said constituent corporations shall be preserved unimpaired, limited to the property affected by such liens at the time of the consolidation, and all debts, liabilities and duties of the respective constituent corporations shall thenceforth attach to said consolidated corporation and may be enforced against it to the same extent as if said debts, liabilities and duties has been incurred or contracted by it. (1955, c. 357, § 3)

XI. The provisions of this section with reference to consolidation shall neither restrict nor enlarge the provisions of section 47 of chapter 44. [1957, c. 397, § 34]. (R. S. c. 49, § 80. 1953, cc. 16, 73. 1955, c. 357, §§ 1-3. 1957, c. 397, § 34.)

Effect of amendments. — The 1955 amendment inserted the words “when the consolidation shall be effective” near the middle of subsection II. In subsection III the amendment rewrote the former second sentence to appear as the present second and fourth sentences and inserted the present third sentence. The amendment also inserted near the beginning of subsection VII the words “and any re-

quired clerks’ certificates of the occurrence of events fixing the effective date have been so filed or the effective date specified in said agreement has arrived.”

The 1957 amendment deleted “section 1 of chapter 50 and” which formerly appeared in subsection XI.

Only the subsections changed by the amendments are set out.

Dissolution of Corporations.

Sec. 112. Jurisdiction of court; court may superintend collection and distribution of assets; fees; disposal of assets.

The court may from time to time allow the trustee or trustees such fees and expenses as it may deem sufficient, said fees and expenses to be paid from the assets in the hands of the trustee or trustees then held for distribution to the stockholders. Subsequent distribution to stockholders shall be reduced proportionately. Whenever the stockholders are unknown, or fail or refuse to accept their distribution or their whereabouts cannot be ascertained by reasonable diligence, said trustee or trustees may file a petition with the court setting forth the names of the stockholders, their last known addresses and the number of shares held by said stockholders. The court may thereupon order the trustee or trustees, after payment of all their expenses and fees, to pay over the funds in their hands distributable to said stockholders to the treasurer of state, together with a statement giving the names of such stockholders, the number of shares held thereby, the amount due each, the same to be held in trust for a period of 20 years for payment to the person or persons establishing a legal right thereto. Any claimant to said funds shall make application within said 20-year period to any justice of the supreme judicial court or the superior court who, if satisfied as to the claimant’s legal right to the fund, shall issue an order under the seal of the court directing the treasurer of state to pay said fund to the claimant and said fund shall be paid as directed. At the end of said 20-year period, any funds remaining in

the state treasury shall escheat to the state. Any income earned on such funds shall be paid into the general fund as compensation for administration. (R. S. c. 49, § 108. 1951, c. 368. 1959, c. 51.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1959 amendment added the last sentence at the end of this section. As the first paragraph was not affected by this amendment, it is not set out.

Foreign Corporations.

Sec. 127. Foreign corporations, before doing business in the state to appoint an attorney; power of attorney and copy of vote filed; service of process.

Any foreign corporation which does business in this state without appointing an agent as required by this section shall be deemed to have appointed the secretary of state, or his successor in office, to be his true and lawful attorney upon whom may be served all lawful processes in any action or proceeding against such corporation, arising as a result of such corporation doing business in this state and such service shall be of the same legal force and validity as if otherwise served on such corporation.

Service of such process shall be made by leaving a copy thereof with a fee of \$2 in the hands of the secretary of state, or in his office, and such service shall be sufficient service upon such foreign corporation; provided that notice of such service and a copy of the process are forthwith sent by registered mail by the plaintiff to the defendant corporation, and the defendant corporation's return receipt and the plaintiff's affidavit of compliance herewith are appended to writ and are filed with the clerk of courts in which the action is pending, or that such notice and copy are served upon an officer of such foreign corporation if found within the state, by an officer duly qualified to serve legal process, or, if found without the state, by any duly constituted public officer qualified to serve like process in the state or jurisdiction where such officer is found, and the officer's return showing such service to have been made is filed in the case on or before the return day of the process or within such further time as the court may allow. The court in which the action is pending may order such continuance as may be necessary to afford the defendant corporation reasonable opportunity to defend the action. (R. S. c. 49, § 123. 1949, c. 5. 1955, c. 24.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1955 amendment added the above two paragraphs at the end of this section. As the two original paragraphs of the section were not changed by the amendment, they are not set out.

Sec. 133. Liability of officers.—The officers of such foreign corporations shall be jointly and severally liable for all the debts and contracts of the corporation contracted or entered into while they are officers thereof, if any statement or report required by the provisions of the 6 preceding sections, made by them, is false in any material representation and known to them to be false; but only the officers who sign such statement or report shall be so liable. (R. S. c. 49, § 129. 1955, c. 405, § 34.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1955 amendment deleted the word "and" before the word "if" in line three.

Sec. 135-A. Fees to foreign charitable corporations.—Foreign charitable corporations shall be exempt from the payment of any fees payable by foreign corporations to the secretary of state. (1955, c. 224.)

Miscellaneous Provisions.

Sec. 136. Repealed by Public Laws 1957, c. 405, § 7.

Cross references.—For present provisions with regard to debt liability of residents of municipalities, see c. 90-A, § 23, and for debt liability of residents of counties, see c. 89, § 31-A.

Sec. 137. Issue of bonds payable by installments.—Any corporation organized under the laws of this state, having occasion to issue bonds, may make them payable in installments of uniform or increasing amounts extending over a period not exceeding 50 years. Provisions shall be made for the payment of not less than 1% of the whole issue each year and, in case the time of payment extends over a period of 50 years, the installments shall cover the whole issue. In case the time of payment extends over a period of less than 50 years, a portion of the issue greater than the regular installment may be made payable at the end of the period. Limitations upon the time for which bonds may be issued are modified in accordance herewith. This section shall not be construed to prevent any corporation organized under the laws of this state from issuing bonds and making them payable in the same manner as it might do, if this section were not enacted. No bonds issued prior to the 3rd day of July, 1909, if valid in other respects, shall be deemed invalid on account of any failure to comply with the provisions of this section. (R. S. c. 49, § 133. 1957, c. 405, § 8.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1957 “water district” and made other minor amendment deleted the former references “county, city, town or changes.” in this section to “county, city, town or

Chapter 54.

Corporations without Capital Stock.

Chapter cited in *Thirkell v. Johnson*,
150 Me. 131, 107 A. (2d) 489.

Organization. Powers. General Provisions.

Sec 1. Organization.—When 7 or more persons desire to be incorporated as proprietors of a social, military, literary, scientific or county law library; as a masonic lodge or chapter of any order or degree; as a masonic association consisting of members of different orders or degrees; as a lodge of the independent order of odd fellows; as a lodge of the knights of Pythias; as a tribe of the improved order of redmen; as a division of the sons of temperance; as a tent of the rechabites; as a grange of patrons of husbandry; as a council of the sovereigns of industry; as a lodge of the benevolent and protective order of elks; as a grand army post; as an American legion post; as a veterans of foreign wars post; as a council of the boy scouts of America; as a relief or benefit association for mutual assistance; as a cemetery association; as a monument or memorial association; as a society to promote temperance; as a village improvement society; as an association for the promotion of good municipal government, as a chamber of commerce or board of trade; as a chapter of the disabled American veterans; as a post of the American veterans of World War II; as a local citizens' group to foster, encourage and assist the location, settlement or resettlement of industry, manufacturing and other business enterprises in any locality within the state; as a yacht club; or for the purpose of preserving and maintaining a family homestead and the rights of descendants and of members of the family therein: or for any literary, scientific, musical, charitable, educational, social, military, agricultural, moral, religious or benevolent purpose, they may apply in writing to any justice of the peace in the county, who may issue his warrant, directed to one of said applicants, requiring him to call a meeting thereof at such time and place as the justice may appoint. (R. S. c. 50, § 1. 1951, c. 143. 1955, c. 302.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1955 amendment inserted the provisions as to a chapter of the disabled American veterans, a post of the American veterans of World War II, and a local citizens' group to foster, etc., industry, manufacturing and other business enterprises.