

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*Maine*  
REVISED STATUTES  
1964

*Prepared Under the Supervision  
of the  
Committee on Revision of Statutes*

Being the Tenth Revision of the  
Revised Statutes of the State  
of Maine, 1964

Volume 3  
Titles 14 to 20



**Boston, Mass.**  
Boston Law Book Co.

**Orford, N. H.**  
Equity Publishing Corporation

**St. Paul, Minn.**  
West Publishing Co.

Text of Revised Statutes  
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State of Maine

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PART 3  
TRIALS

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CHAPTER 201

GENERAL PROVISIONS

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**§ 1201. Right to speedy trial**

Any person in prison under indictment shall be tried or bailed at the next term after the finding thereof, if he demands it, unless the court is satisfied that some of the witnesses on the part of the State have been enticed away or detained from court by some cause beyond their control. All persons under indictment for felony, if they have been arrested thereon, shall be tried or bailed at the 2nd term after the finding thereof. Any person indicted, although he has not been arrested, is entitled to a speedy trial, if he demands it in person in open court.

R.S.1954, c. 148, § 9.

**§ 1202. Postponement or continuance**

The trial of any criminal case, except for a crime punishable by imprisonment for life, may be postponed by the court to a future day of the same term, or the jury may be discharged therefrom and the case continued, if justice will thereby be promoted.

R.S.1954, c. 148, § 16.

**§ 1203. Trial to proceed when dilatory pleas overruled**

When a dilatory plea is overruled and exceptions taken in a criminal case, the court shall proceed and close the trial, and

the action shall then be continued and marked "law," subject to section 2117.

R.S.1954, c. 106, § 19; 1959, c. 317, § 79.

**§ 1204. Respondent present at felony trial; otherwise excused**

No person indicted for felony shall be tried unless present during the trial, but persons indicted for less offenses, at their own request and by leave of court, may be tried in their absence if represented by their attorney.

R.S.1954, c. 148, § 14.