

**CHAPTER 607****REAL ESTATE****§6001. Land bought or taken**

A railroad corporation, for the location, construction, repair and convenient use of its road, may purchase or take and hold, as for public uses, land and all materials in and upon it. Through woodland and forest the land so taken shall not exceed 6 rods in width unless necessary for excavation, embankment or materials and through all land other than woodland and forest, the land so taken shall not exceed 4 rods in width unless necessary for excavation, embankment or materials. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6002. Land for improvements; proceedings**

Any railroad corporation may purchase or take and hold, as for public uses, additional land or rights in land, at any time required for improving the alignment or grades of its road, for double tracking its road, for protecting the tracks against erosion of adjoining or adjacent land or against the action of the elements, or reasonably necessary in the enhancement of public safety at dangerous curves or crossings; and land or rights therein, for borrow, ballast and gravel pits, necessary tracks, side-tracks, spur tracks, freight or passenger yards, stations, station grounds, approaches to stations and station grounds and to other facilities furnished by the railroad for public use, coal sheds, woodsheds, water tanks, repair shops, car, engine, freight and section houses, section dwelling houses and storage warehouses, or other structures, which the Department of Transportation, after hearing, finds to be reasonably required in the safe, economical and efficient operation of the railroad and in rendering of adequate service to the public. If the owner or owners of that land do not consent, if the parties do not agree as to the necessity for the taking or as to the area to be taken or if the parties are unable to agree as to the fair value of the land, the corporation may make written application to the Department of Transportation requesting its approval of the taking by the railroad corporation for any such public uses, describing the land and appurtenances and naming the persons interested. The department shall then appoint a time for a hearing near the premises and require notice to be given to the persons interested, as they may direct, at least 14 days before that time. The department shall then view the premises; hear the parties; determine how much, if any, of the real estate should be taken for the reasonable accommodation of the traffic, the safe operation of the railroad and the appropriate business of the corporation; and enter an order containing a definite description of the real estate and furnish the corporation with a true copy of the order. When a certified copy of the order is filed with the registry of deeds in the county where the land lies, the land shall be deemed and treated as taken. When land is held by a tenant for life and the reversion is contingent as to the persons in whom it may vest on the termination of the life estate, that fact shall be stated in the application and the department shall, in addition to the notice to the tenant for life, give notice by publication to all others interested, in such manner as it deems proper. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6003. Change in location**

Any railroad corporation may make any changes in the location of its road which it deems necessary or expedient and the changes shall be recorded where the original location was required by law to be recorded. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6004. Land taken for change**

Any railroad corporation may purchase, or take and hold as for public uses, land and materials necessary for making any changes authorized by section 6003, in the manner authorized by its charter or the general provisions of law and may cross highways and town ways in accordance with the law regulating those crossings. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6005. Limitation of right to enter or take land**

The land taken shall not be entered upon, except to make surveys, before the location has been filed and the damages estimated and secured as provided. No railroad corporation may take, without consent of the owners, meetinghouses, dwelling houses or public or private burying grounds. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6006. Branch tracks**

Any railroad corporation may locate, construct and maintain branch railroad tracks to any railroad station of another corporation or to connect with another railroad or to any mills, mines, quarries, gravel pits, log landing or yard, warehouses and storehouses, airports, piers, docks, shipyards, educational institutions or manufacturing establishments erected, or in process of erection, in any town or township through which the main line of that railroad is constructed, but not within any city without the consent of the city government and for that purpose the corporation shall have all the powers and rights granted and be subject to all the duties imposed upon it by its charter. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6007. Estimate of damages; guardian; security for costs**

For real estate taken pursuant to section 6002, the owners are entitled to damages to be paid by the corporation. The corporation shall attempt to settle the amount of damages, with the consent of the owners, within 60 days from the date of the taking. If all parties do not agree on the amount of damages, they shall be estimated by the county commissioners on written application by either party. The county commissioners shall estimate the damages within one year of the date application is made. When no estimate is made within that time, the owner may maintain a civil action or have any remedy provided. The guardian of a person incapable of giving a valid conveyance whose land is taken may settle and give a valid release for damages. Persons having any interest in that land have the rights and remedies of owners to the extent of their interest. When requested by the owner, the commissioners shall require the corporation to give security for the payment of damages and costs by depositing, at its risk, with the clerk, specie, notes or obligations of a state or public corporation or other security satisfactory to the party requiring it. When entitled to it, so much of any specie so deposited shall be paid to him as will satisfy his judgment. Notes or obligations so deposited shall be delivered to the officer having a warrant of distress, to be by him sold as personal property is sold on execution, to satisfy the warrant and fees and any balance shall be paid to the treasurer of the corporation. When it neglects for more than 30 days to give the security required, the owner is entitled to the remedies by injunction. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6008. Petitions for assessment of damages**

In all cases of petition to the commissioners of any county praying for the assessment of damages on account of any railroad corporation having taken lands in the county, the notice to the adverse party of the time and place of the hearing shall be a personal notice of 14 days or by publication of the petition and order of notice on the petition in some newspaper published in said county, 2 weeks successively, the last publication to be 14 days before the hearing. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6009. Cattle guards and passes; double damages**

The county commissioners shall order the corporation to make and maintain such cattle guards, cattle passes and farm crossings as they think reasonable and prescribe the time and manner of making them and consider this work in awarding pecuniary damages. If the corporation after 48 hours' notice in writing to its president or superintendent neglects to commence the work or complete it within a reasonable time, the owner may apply to the Superior Court and the court, after due notice to the corporation, shall issue all necessary processes to enforce the specific performance of the orders or restrain it by injunction or the party interested may recover, in a civil action, double the damage that he has sustained by the neglect. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6010. Award of damages; terms and conditions**

The county commissioners in awarding damages for land or other property taken by any railroad company may, on the application of the railroad company, prescribe such terms and conditions, in all respects, for the use of the land or property taken, by the owners of the land or property and the railroad company respectively, as will secure the best accommodation of the owners and the proper and convenient use of the land or property by the railroad company. In case of appeal by either party, the only question in issue shall be the amount or measure of damages on the terms and conditions imposed by the commissioners. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6011. Commissioners' report of damages and rights of parties; notice**

The county commissioners shall at a regular session make a report of their general estimate of damages, stating specifically the terms and conditions imposed by them, the rights and obligations of each party and the elements of damage as provided for land taken for highway purposes under section 154, subsections 2, 3 and 4, and cause it to be recorded. Their clerk shall then make out a notice to each person, stating the amount of damages awarded to him and the elements of damage, which shall be served by an officer on those resident in the State and upon others, if any, by a publication 3 weeks successively in a newspaper printed in the county, if any or, if not, in the state paper. The expense of notices shall be added to the costs of the proceedings and paid accordingly. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6012. Appeals; notice and proceedings**

Any person, aggrieved by the decision or judgment of the county commissioners in relation to damages for land taken for railroad purposes, may appeal to the Superior Court to be held in the county where the land is situated, within 30 days after the report of the commissioners is made, which court shall determine the damages by a committee of reference if the parties so agree or by a verdict of its jury and shall render judgment and issue execution for the damages recovered, with costs to the party prevailing in the appeal. No committee or jury shall alter the requirements in the report of the commissioners. The appellants shall, when the appeal is taken, include in the complaint a statement setting forth substantially the facts of the case and shall give written notice of appeal with a copy of the complaint to the opposite party. An appeal may be taken to the Law Court as in other actions. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

#### **§6013. Deposit of damages, interest and costs**

When the proceedings are closed, the corporation may deposit with the clerk the amount of damages, with interest from the time when the estimation was recorded, and legal costs, in full satisfaction therefor, unless a demand had been previously made and payment neglected. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

#### **§6014. When damages not paid**

When the damages remain unpaid for more than 30 days after they are due and demanded, equitable relief may be requested by the person entitled to them, praying for an injunction against the use or occupation of his land taken. If proceedings for an estimation of damages are not commenced within 3 years and the owner of the land requests equitable relief, the court may estimate the damages, decree their payment and issue an execution. The court, after summary notice to the corporation and upon proof of the facts may, without any bond filed, issue an injunction prohibiting the use and occupation until all damages and costs are paid. If payment has not been made within 90 days, a permanent injunction may be issued; and all rights acquired by taking the land and all rights of property in and to whatever has been placed upon it cease and the owner may maintain an action for its recovery and protection. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

#### **§6015. Service of process and notice**

Service of process and notice may be made as process is served in other actions. Service of an injunction issued against any person, whether a party to the action or not, may be made upon him and he shall be liable to all the penalties and consequences provided for a breach of it. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

#### **§6016. Breach of injunction**

The court may order persons violating the injunction, after service or using the land, to show cause at a time fixed, why a decree should not be entered and execution issued against them individually and their goods and estate, for the damages, interest, costs and for additional damages and costs for breach of the injunction. Upon service and return of the order, the court may enter such decree as is just and

equitable against those persons and issue execution accordingly or may proceed against them as for breach of injunction in other civil actions. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

#### **§6017. Station grounds not to be taken by another company**

No railroad corporation may take the grounds occupied by any other railroad company and necessary for its use for station purposes, without its consent. When application is made to take those grounds, the Department of Transportation, upon notice and hearing, shall determine whether the land proposed to be taken is necessary or not and whether any public necessity requires it to be taken. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

#### **§6018. Use of passenger stations**

Whenever any railroad passenger station is erected or maintained in any city or town in this State, any railroad corporation having or using a track or passenger station within that city or town may run its passenger trains to and from the station, over any railroad track or tracks leading to the station, and use the same for the purpose of delivering and receiving through passengers, under such reasonable terms and regulations and over such tracks as may be agreed upon by the owner of the station, the railroad whose tracks are used in running to and from the same and the railroad corporation so desiring its use for that purpose and, in case of disagreement, upon petition, notice and hearing, the Department of Transportation shall fix and determine those terms, tracks and rules. No corporation which denies, in any proceedings, the authority of the Department of Transportation to proceed and make the determination, or which refuses to abide by its decision rendered in the proceedings, may avail itself of this section. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

#### **§6019. Loitering about or soliciting passengers**

**1. Loitering prohibited.** A person may not loiter or remain, without right, within any car or station house of a railroad corporation or upon the platform or grounds adjoining that station after being requested to leave by a railroad officer.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. L, §10 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

**2. Soliciting passengers prohibited.** A person may not solicit passengers, in competition with a railroad corporation, in a station or on the station grounds or wharves of the railroad corporation without a written permit signed by an officer of the corporation authorized to issue the permit.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. L, §10 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

**3. Penalties.** A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$100 may be adjudged.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. L, §10 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 452, §L10 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF).

#### **§6020. Law posted**

The officers of all railroad corporations shall cause a copy of section 6019 to be posted in a conspicuous place at the several stations along the line of their roads. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6021. Fences; liability for injuries**

Where a railroad passes through enclosed or improved land, or woodlots belonging to a farm, legal and sufficient fences shall be made on each side of the land taken therefor, before the construction of the road is commenced, and the fences shall be maintained and kept in good repair by the corporation. For any neglect of that duty during the construction of the road, and for injuries thereby occasioned by its servants, agents or contractors, the directors are jointly and severally personally liable. For any subsequent neglect, the corporation shall be fined a sum sufficient to make or repair the fence, to be recovered by indictment and expended by an agent appointed by the court. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6022. Line fences built on notice of abutter**

The owner of any enclosed or improved land or woodlot belonging to a farm abutting upon any railroad, which is finished and in operation, may at any time between the 20th day of April and the end of October give written notice to the president, treasurer or any of the directors of the corporation owning, controlling or operating that railroad that the line fence against his land has not been built, or if built, that the fence is defective and needs repair. If the corporation neglects to build or repair the fence for 30 days after receiving notice, it forfeits to the owner \$100, to be recovered in a civil action. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6023. Injuring fences; turning animals into railroad enclosure**

**1. Injuring fence.** A person may not take down or intentionally injure a fence erected to protect the line of a railroad.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. L, §11 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

**2. Turning animals into railroad enclosure.** A person may not turn a horse, cattle or other animal upon or within the enclosure of a railroad.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. L, §11 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

**3. Penalty.** A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. Violation of this section is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. L, §11 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 797, §7 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §L11 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF).

**§6024. Company liable for trespasses on adjoining land**

The corporation is liable for trespasses and injuries to lands and buildings adjoining or in the vicinity of its road committed by a person in its employment or occasioned by its order, if the party injured within 60 days after the injured gives notice to the corporation; but its liability does not extend to acts of willful and malicious trespass. The person committing a trespass is also liable. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

**§6025. No title to lands of railroads by adverse possession**

No title to any real estate or any interest in real estate may be acquired against any railroad corporation by adverse possession, however exclusive or long continued. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 141, §A4 (NEW).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Special Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through October 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.