

## CHAPTER 5

### MERIDIAN LINES AND STANDARDS OF LENGTH

#### §1001. Meridian line; record

**1. Line constructed.** The county commissioners, at the expense of their respective counties, shall erect and maintain a true meridian line in their county, at a place convenient to the public and remote from electrical disturbances. The line must be perpetuated by stone pillars with brass or copper points firmly fixed on the tops of the pillars, indicating the true range of the meridian.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Record book.** The commissioners shall provide a book of records to be kept by the county commissioners or by their appointee who is nearer to the structure and is accessible to all persons wishing to refer to the book.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §1002. Care and custody

The structures referred to in section 1001 are under the care and custody of the county commissioners. Any surveyor residing in the county or engaged in surveying in the county shall have free access to the structure for the purpose of testing the variation of the magnetic needle. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §1003. Annual verification of compass; record of needle declination

When the meridian lines required by section 1001 have been established and completed, every land surveyor shall, at least annually before making any survey, test and verify his compass or other instrument using the magnetic needle by the meridian line established in the county where his surveys are to be made. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Test recorded.** The surveyor shall enter the declination of that needle from the true meridian in the book mentioned in section 1001, together with the style and make of the instrument and its number, if any, and the date and hour of observation and sign his name for future reference. The surveyor shall insert corresponding entries as to date and declination in the field notebooks. The surveyor's field notebooks must also show the dates on which the surveys are made.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Violation.** Neglect or refusal to comply with this section is a civil violation for which a forfeiture of \$25 for each neglect may be adjudged, to be recovered on complaint in the county where any survey is made, half to the complainant and half to the county.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Application.** This section does not apply to surveys that are made by angles from some fixed, permanent line or by a solar instrument and independent of the magnetic needle.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §1004. Standards of length; verification of tape or chain

**1. Standard of length constructed.** The county commissioners, at the expense of their respective counties, shall erect and maintain in their county, at a place convenient to the public, a standard of length at least 100 feet long with suitable subdivisions marked on it. This standard may consist of stone monuments permanently fixed with metal plates on the tops of the monuments, properly marked and protected, or of a steel bar of the necessary length properly marked and suitably placed and protected. All such standards must correspond with the standard of the National Bureau of Standards and must be provided with proper means for determining the tension of tapes or chains during comparison. These standards are under the care and custody of the county commissioners.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Record book; comparisons.** The county commissioners shall keep a suitable book for the record of comparisons. The standards shall be accessible to any person for comparing any tape, chain or other linear measure.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Surveyors' comparisons.** Before making surveys in this State and at least annually, every surveyor must compare the tape or chain used in those surveys with the standard in the county in which the surveyor resides or in which surveys are to be made, and shall record the result in the book provided for that purpose. The surveyor must describe the tape or chain with the difference, if any, between that tape or chain and the standard, together with the date and temperature and the tension on the tape or chain at the time of comparison.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Violation.** When this standard is completed in any county, any surveyor residing or making surveys in that county who neglects or refuses to comply with this section is liable to the penalties under section 1003.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §1005. Appointment of commissioners to verify meridians and standards

When the meridian line or standard of length is established, repaired or rebuilt in any county, the Governor shall appoint a competent commissioner, not necessarily a resident of this State, to inspect and verify the meridian line or standard of length. In case of a meridian line, the commissioner shall verify the line by astronomical observation and in the commissioner's report shall accurately describe

the structure, its latitude and longitude and the declination of the needle at the time. In case of a standard of length, the commissioner shall describe the structure, its location and exact length as determined by comparison with some authentic standard from the National Bureau of Standards. All such reports must be full and accurate and shall be deposited in the Department of the Secretary of State and a certified copy shall be filed and recorded in the office of the county commissioners in the county where the structure is located. The commissioner appointed by the Governor shall receive from the State such just compensation as the Governor allows. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §1006. Damage to meridians; penalty

Whoever willfully displaces, alters, defaces, breaks or otherwise damages any of the pillars or points, plates, enclosures, bars, locks, bolts or any part of the structure of any meridian line or standard of length: [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Civil violation.** Commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$100 may be adjudged, to be recovered on complaint in the county where the structure is located, half to the complainant and half to the county; and  
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Liable for cost of repairs.** Is liable in a civil action for the amount necessarily expended in repairing damages caused by that act.  
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §1007. Exceptions

This chapter does not apply to the County of Kennebec and the County of Aroostook. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

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