

**§1201. Legislative intent, purpose**

The Legislature finds that the ownership of many of Maine's coastal islands is uncertain. The Legislature prohibited the further sale of state-owned islands in 1913 but some of the land agent's records of prior conveyances are missing or incomplete. In addition, title to many privately-owned islands was derived from ancient charters and grants. Subsequent grantees many times did not include such islands in grants or bequests or died intestate with no record of island holdings in their estates. Because of the large number of islands and ledges in Maine's coastal waters and the legal uncertainty with respect to the ownership of many such islands, unrealistic and perhaps fruitless expenditures of time and money, far exceeding all legal requirements of due diligence, would be necessary to search all subsequent conveyances from ancient charters and grants to establish State title to these islands. Therefore, in order to clarify and establish title to islands in Maine's coastal waters, to protect the State's ownership of its island resources for public use, to establish title to land that was once granted by the State of Maine, or by grant or charter before Maine became a State and subsequently owned by a person or persons who either died intestate without heirs or with heirs who abandoned the property, the Legislature directs the creation of a Coastal Island Registry and the following procedure to establish title to island property in Maine's coastal waters. [PL 1973, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1973, c. 616, §1 (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 Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. 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.