

CHAPTER 201**VENUE****§501. Personal and transitory actions; inter-county transfers**

Personal and transitory actions, except process of foreign attachment and except as provided in this chapter, shall be brought, when the parties live in the State, in the county where any plaintiff or defendant lives; and when no plaintiff lives in the State, in the county where any defendant lives; or in either case any such action may be brought in the county where the cause of action took place. Improper venue may be raised by the defendant by motion or by answer, and if it is established that the action was brought in the wrong county, it shall be dismissed and the defendant allowed double costs. When the plaintiff and defendant live in different counties at the commencement of any such action, except process of foreign attachment, and during its pendency one party moves into the same county with the other, it may, on motion of either, be transferred to the county where both then live if the court thinks that justice will thereby be promoted; and be tried as if originally commenced and entered therein. Actions by the assignee of a nonnegotiable chose in action, when brought in the Superior Court or in the District Court, shall be commenced in the county or division when brought in the District Court, in which the original creditor might have maintained his action. [PL 1973, c. 378 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 378 (AMD).

§502. Sheriff's bond

Actions on bonds given by sheriffs to the Treasurer of State shall be brought in the county for which such sheriff is commissioned.

§503. Civil actions on judgment

Civil actions founded on judgment rendered by any court of record in the State may be brought in the county where it was rendered or in the county in which either party thereto or his executor or administrator resides at the time of bringing the action.

§504. Jurisdiction by attachment

In all actions commenced in any court proper to try them jurisdiction shall be sustained if goods, estate, effects or credits of any defendant are found within the State and attached.

§505. Local and transitory actions where counties, towns and other corporations are parties

Local and transitory actions shall be commenced and tried as follows: When both parties are counties, in any county adjoining either; when a county is plaintiff, if the defendant lives therein, in an adjoining county; if he does not live therein, in the county in which he does live; when a county is defendant, if the plaintiff lives therein, in that county or in an adjoining county; if he does not live therein, in that county or in that in which he does live; when a corporation is one party and a county the other, in any adjoining county; when both parties are towns, parishes or school districts, in the county in which either is situated; when one party is a town, parish or school district and the other some corporation or natural person, in the county in which either of the parties is situated or lives; but all actions against towns for damages by reason of defects in highways shall be brought and tried in the county in which the town is situated. All other corporations may sue and be sued in the county in which they have an established place of business or in which the plaintiff or defendant, if a natural person, lives.

§506. Actions for forfeitures

When a forfeiture is recoverable in a civil action, such action shall be brought in the county in which the offense was committed unless a different provision is made by statute. If on trial it does not appear that such offense was committed in the county where the action was brought, the verdict shall be in favor of the defendant.

§507. State action to recover funds or property

An action in behalf of the State to enforce the collection of state taxes upon any corporation or to recover of any person or corporation moneys due the State, public funds or property belonging to the State, or the value thereof, may be brought in any county. On motion of the defendant, any Justice of the Superior Court may, for sufficient reasons shown, remove the same to the docket of said court in any other county for trial and may, upon such removal, award costs to the defendant for one term, to be paid by the Treasurer of State on presentation of the certificate of the amount thereof from the clerk of courts of the county from which said action is transferred.

§508. Transfer of venue

A presiding Justice of the Superior Court may, in the interests of justice and to secure the speedy trial of an action, or for other good cause, transfer any civil action or proceeding from the Superior Court in one county to another county. The Chief Justice of the Superior Court may, in the interests of justice and to secure the speedy trial of actions and the efficient scheduling of trials, or for other good cause, transfer any number of civil actions or proceedings from the Superior Court in one county to another county. Transfer may also be by consent of all parties to any civil action or proceeding, provided that the prior approval of the Chief Justice of the Superior Court is obtained. [PL 1991, c. 634 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 356, §9 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 337, §1 (RPR). PL 1981, c. 558 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 688, §5 (RPR). PL 1991, c. 634 (AMD).

§509. Consumer transactions

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, an action brought against a consumer arising from a consumer credit transaction or a rental-purchase agreement must be brought in accordance with Title 9-A, section 5-113, except that an action brought pursuant to Title 32, section 11013, subsection 3, paragraph N must be brought where provided for in that paragraph. [PL 2009, c. 245, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 245, §3 (NEW).

§510. Replevin

Except as otherwise provided in section 509, an action for replevin must be brought either in the division or county where a plaintiff or defendant resides, where the underlying transaction involving the personal property was made or where any of the personal property is located. [PL 2009, c. 245, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 245, §4 (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.