CHAPTER 8. STATUTES
REVISED STATUTES OF 1846

History: R.S. 1846, Ch. 1.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan:

CHAPTER 1
CHAPTER 1. OF THE STATUTES.

8.1 Original acts; custody.

Sec. 1. The original acts of the legislature shall be deposited with, and kept by, the secretary of state.


Compiler's note: Section 2 of R.S. 1846, Ch. 1, pertains to effective date of statutes. For present law on this subject, see Mich. Const., Art. 4, § 27.

8.3 General rules of construction.

Sec. 3. In the construction of the statutes of this state, the rules stated in sections 3a to 3w shall be observed, unless such construction would be inconsistent with the manifest intent of the legislature.


8.3a Approved usage; technical words and phrases.

Sec. 3a. All words and phrases shall be construed and understood according to the common and approved usage of the language; but technical words and phrases, and such as may have acquired a peculiar and appropriate meaning in the law, shall be construed and understood according to such peculiar and appropriate meaning.


8.3b Singular and plural; gender.

Sec. 3b. Every word importing the singular number only may extend to and embrace the plural number, and every word importing the plural number may be applied and limited to the singular number. Every word importing the masculine gender only may extend and be applied to females as well as males.


8.3c Authority of majority.

Sec. 3c. All words purporting to give a joint authority to 3 or more public officers or other persons shall be construed as giving such authority to a majority of such officers or other persons, unless it shall be otherwise expressly declared in the law giving the authority.


8.3d "Annual meeting" defined.

Sec. 3d. The words "annual meeting," when applied to townships, mean the annual meeting required by law to be held on the Saturday immediately preceding the first Monday in April.


8.3e "Grantor" and "grantee" defined.

Sec. 3e. The word "grantor" may be construed as including every person from or by whom any estate in lands passes in or by any deed. The word "grantee" may be construed as including every person to whom any such interest or estate passes in like manner.


8.3f "Inhabitant" defined.

Sec. 3f. The word "inhabitant" means a resident of a city, township, village, district or county.


8.3g "Insane person" defined.

Sec. 3g. The words "insane person" shall be construed to include an idiot, a non compos, a lunatic and an
otherwise distracted person.


Compiler’s note: The repealed section defined “issue” as applied to the descent of estates.

8.3j “Land,” “real estate,” and “real property” defined.

Sec. 3j. The words “land”, “lands”, “real estate” and “real property” mean lands, tenements and real estate, and all rights thereto and interests therein.


8.3k “Month” and “year” defined.

Sec. 3k. The word “month” means a calendar month; the word ”year”, a calendar year; and the word ”year” alone shall be equivalent to the words ”year of our Lord”.


8.3l “Person” defined.

Sec. 3l. The word ”person” may extend and be applied to bodies politic and corporate, as well as to individuals.


8.3m “Preceding” and “following” defined.

Sec. 3m. The words ”preceding” and ”following”, when used by way of reference to any title, chapter or section of the statutes of this state, shall be construed to mean the title, chapter or section next preceding or next following that in which such reference is made, unless when some other title, chapter or section is expressly designated in such reference.


8.3n “Seal” defined.

Sec. 3n. In all cases in which the seal of any court or public office is required to be affixed to any paper or electronic document issuing from the court or office, the word ”seal” shall be construed to include any of the following:

(a) The impression of the seal on the paper alone.
(b) The impression of the seal affixed to the paper by means of a wafer or wax.
(c) The seal affixed electronically on the paper or affixed to an electronic document.


8.3o “State” and “United States” defined.

Sec. 3o. The word ”state”, when applied to the different parts of the United States, shall be construed to extend to and include the District of Columbia and the several territories belonging to the United States; and the words ”United States” shall be construed to include the district and territories.


Compiler’s note: The repealed section defined “will”.

8.3q “Written” and “in writing” construed.

Sec. 3q. The words ”written” and ”in writing” shall be construed to include printing, engraving, and lithographing; except that if the written signature of a person is required by law, the signature shall be the proper handwriting of the person or, if the person is unable to write, the person's proper mark, which may be, unless otherwise expressly prohibited by law, a clear and classifiable fingerprint of the person made with ink or another substance.

8.3r Acts of incorporation deemed public acts.
Sec. 3r. All acts of incorporation shall be deemed public acts, and as such may be declared on and given in evidence without specially pleading the same.


8.3s “General election” defined.
Sec. 3s. The words "general election" mean the election required by law to be held in the month of November but do not include any primary election.


8.3t “Firearm” defined.
Sec. 3t. The word "firearm", except as otherwise specifically defined in statute, includes any weapon which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive.


8.3u Re-enactments.
Sec. 3u. The provisions of any law or statute which is re-enacted, amended or revised, so far as they are the same as those of prior laws, shall be construed as a continuation of such laws and not as new enactments. If any provision of a law is repealed and in substance re-enacted, a reference in any other law to the repealed provision shall be deemed a reference to the re-enacted provision.


8.3v Population.
Sec. 3v. The population of the state or any political subdivision thereof shall be determined, unless otherwise specifically provided, on the basis of the latest federal decennial census preceding the time as of which the population is to be determined.


8.3w Section numbers.
Sec. 3w. Wherever in the statute laws of this state a reference is made to several sections and the section numbers are connected by the word "to", the reference includes both sections whose numbers are given and all intervening sections.


8.4 Effect of repeal of repealing statute.
Sec. 4. Whenever a statute, or any part thereof shall be repealed by a subsequent statute, such statute, or any part thereof, so repealed, shall not be revived by the repeal of such subsequent repealing statute.

History: R.S. 1846, Ch. 1;—CL 1857, 3;—CL 1871, 3;—How. 3;—CL 1897, 51;—CL 1915, 65;—CL 1929, 77;—CL 1948, 8.4.

8.4a Effect of repeal.
Sec. 4-a. The repeal of any statute or part thereof shall not have the effect to release or relinquish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under such statute or any part thereof, unless the repealing act shall so expressly provide, and such statute and part thereof shall be treated as still remaining in force for the purpose of instituting or sustaining any proper action or prosecution for the enforcement of such penalty, forfeiture or liability.


Compiler’s note: Section 3 of Act 510 of 1978 provides: “Section 4a of chapter 1 of the Revised Statutes of 1846, being section 8.4a of the Michigan Compiled Laws applies to violations of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, as amended, being sections 257.1 to 257.923 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, or a local ordinance substantially corresponding thereto, which occurred before the effective date of this amendatory act and which would otherwise be designated as civil infractions upon the effective date of this amendatory act.”

8.4b Catchline not part of section.
Sec. 4-b. The catch line heading of any section of the statutes that follows the act section number shall in no way be deemed to be a part of the section or the statute, or be used to construe the section more broadly or narrowly than the text of the section would indicate, but shall be deemed to be inserted for purposes of convenience to persons using publications of the statutes.


8.4c “Shall not apply” defined.
Sec. 4c. As used in the statutes of this state, "shall not apply" means that the pertinent provision is not operative as to certain persons or things or in conjunction with a particular date or dates. Use of the phrase "shall not apply" does not result in the repeal, expiration, termination, or otherwise legislating out of existence of that portion of a statute to which the phrase pertains, but only relates to the operational effect of the provision.  


### 8.5 Severability.

Sec. 5. In the construction of the statutes of this state the following rules shall be observed, unless such construction would be inconsistent with the manifest intent of the legislature, that is to say:

If any portion of an act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be found to be invalid by a court, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid portion or application, provided such remaining portions are not determined by the court to be inoperable, and to this end acts are declared to be severable.  

**History:** Add. 1945, Act 119, Imd. Eff. Apr. 20, 1945;—CL 1948, 8.5.

### 8.6 Statutes and rules; time; computation.

Sec. 6. This section applies to the statutes and administrative rules. In computing a period of days, the first day is excluded and the last day is included. If the last day of any period or a fixed or final day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the period or day is extended to include the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.  


### 8.7 Department of natural resources; references.

Sec. 7. Whenever reference is made to the department of conservation or the conservation commission it shall mean the department of natural resources or the natural resources commission.  


### 8.8 “Law” defined; reference to “Michigan Compiled Laws”; reference to statute as including latest amendments; use of “as amended”; reference in title or enacting section to law adding or amending section subsequent to most recent published compilation.

Sec. 8. (1) As used in this section, "law" means any of the following:

(a) A public act of the legislature.  
(b) An initiated law adopted by the people.  
(c) An executive order of the governor submitted to the legislature pursuant to section 2 of article 5 of the state constitution of 1963 and having the force of law.  
(2) A reference to “Michigan Compiled Laws” shall include all sections of law, as last amended, which are assigned a compilation number by the legislative service bureau and are not subsequently repealed.  
(3) Unless otherwise specifically provided, a reference to all or part of a statute, regardless of whether the words "as amended" are used in the reference, shall include the latest amendments to the statute or part.  
(4) With respect to a section of the Michigan Compiled Laws which is added to a statute or amended subsequent to the most recent published compilation of the laws of this state in force, as certified by the legislative council, a reference within the title or an enacting section of a statute to the law which added or amended the section is not required, but a statute may include within the title or enacting section, or both, of the statute, a reference to the law which added or most recently amended the section subsequent to the most recent published compilation.  


### 8.9 Criminal offense committed on or after January 1, 2016; guilt; strict criminal liability; culpability; defense; section inapplicable to certain crimes; definitions.

Sec. 9. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person is not guilty of a criminal offense committed on or after January 1, 2016 unless both of the following apply:

(a) The person's criminal liability is based on conduct that includes either a voluntary act or an omission to perform an act or duty that the person is capable of performing.  
(b) The person has the requisite degree of culpability for each element of the offense as to which a culpable mental state is specified by the language defining the offense.  
(2) If the statutory language defining a criminal offense does not specify any degree of culpability and plainly imposes strict criminal liability for the conduct described in the statute, then culpability is not required
for a person to be guilty of the offense. The fact that a subsection of a statute plainly imposes strict liability for an offense defined in that subsection does not by itself plainly impose strict criminal liability for an offense defined in another subsection of that statute that does not specify a degree of culpability.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), if statutory language defining an element of a criminal offense that is related to knowledge or intent or as to which mens rea could reasonably be applied neither specifies culpability nor plainly imposes strict liability, the element of the offense is established only if a person acts with intent, knowledge, or recklessness.

(4) Subsection (3) does not relieve the prosecution of the burden of proving the culpable mental state required by any definition incorporated into the offense.

(5) If a statute defining a criminal offense provides that negligence suffices to establish an element of the offense, then intent, knowledge, or recklessness is also sufficient culpability to satisfy that element. If recklessness suffices to establish an element of an offense, then knowledge or intent is also sufficient culpability to satisfy that element. If knowledge suffices to establish an element of an offense, then intent is also sufficient culpability to satisfy that element.

(6) It is not a defense to a crime that the defendant was, at the time the crime occurred, under the influence of or impaired by a voluntarily and knowingly consumed alcoholic liquor, drug, including a controlled substance, other substance or compound, or combination of alcoholic liquor, drug, or other substance or compound. However, it is an affirmative defense to a specific intent crime, for which the defendant has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence, that he or she voluntarily ingested a legally obtained and properly used medication or other substance and did not know and reasonably should not have known that he or she would become intoxicated or impaired.

(7) This section does not apply to, and shall not be construed to affect, crimes under any of the following:
   (a) The Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1 to 257.923.
   (b) The public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.1101 to 333.25211.
   (c) The identity theft protection act, 2004 PA 452, MCL 445.61 to 445.79c.
   (d) The Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.1 to 750.568.
   (e) Chapter 752 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(8) If a statute defining an offense prescribes a culpable mental state but does not specify the element to which it applies, the prescribed culpable mental state applies to each material element of the offense that necessarily requires a culpable mental state.

(9) The mere absence of a specified state of mind for an element of a covered offense shall not be construed to mean that the legislature affirmatively intended not to require the prosecution to prove any state of mind.

(10) As used in this section:
   (a) "Culpable" means sufficiently responsible for criminal acts or negligence to be at fault and liable to punishment for commission of a crime.
   (b) "Intent" means a desire or will to act with respect to a material element of an offense if both of the following circumstances exist:
      (i) The element involves the nature of a person's conduct or a result of that conduct, and it is the person's conscious object to engage in conduct of that nature or to cause that result.
      (ii) The element involves the attendant circumstances, and the person is aware of the existence of those circumstances or believes or hopes that they exist.
   (c) "Intoxicated or impaired" includes, but is not limited to, a condition of intoxication resulting from the ingestion of alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor and a controlled substance. As used in this subdivision:
      (i) "Alcoholic liquor" means that term as defined in section 105 of the Michigan liquor control code of 1998, 1998 PA 58, MCL 436.1105.
      (ii) "Controlled substance" means that term as defined in section 7104 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7104.
      (iii) "Ingestion" means to have eaten, drunk, ingested, inhaled, injected, or topically applied, or to have performed any combination of those actions, or otherwise introduced into the body.
   (d) "Knowledge" means awareness or understanding with respect to a material element of an offense if both of the following circumstances exist:
      (i) The element involves the nature or the attendant circumstances of the person's conduct, and the person is aware that his or her conduct is of that nature or that those circumstances exist.
      (ii) The element involves a result of the person's conduct, and the person is aware that it is practically certain that his or her conduct will cause that result.
   (e) "Negligence" means the failure to use reasonable care with respect to a material element of an offense
to avoid consequences that are the foreseeable outcome of the person's conduct with respect to a material element of an offense and that threaten or harm the safety of another.

(f) "Recklessness" means an act or failure to act that demonstrates a deliberate, willful, or wanton disregard of a substantial and unjustifiable risk without reasonable caution for the rights, safety, and property of others.


**Compiler's note:** Enacting section 1 of Act 250 of 2015 provides: "Enacting section 1. This amendatory act only applies to crimes committed on or after January 1, 2016."

### 8.6a Auditor general; access to records.

Sec. 6a. Any statutory provision that explicitly allows the auditor general to access records must not be used to interpret any other statute without that explicit allowance as preventing the auditor general from accessing records.

CERTIFIED MAIL IN LIEU OF REGISTERED MAIL
Act 147 of 1956

AN ACT to provide for the substitution of certified mail, or certified mail, return receipt requested, in lieu of registered mail, or registered mail, return receipt requested, in the statutes of this state, except where registered mail or registered mail, return receipt requested, is used in connection with items of intrinsic value.


The People of the State of Michigan enact:

8.11 Statutes; definition: registered mail.

Sec. 1. Wherever there is contained in the statutes of this state the term or terms, or direction for the use of, "registered mail" or "registered mail, return receipt requested," such term or terms shall be deemed to include the term or terms "certified mail" or "certified mail, return receipt requested," and in the case of certified mail the receipt of mailing shall be postmarked.

PRESERVATION OF LAWS
Act 46 of 1847

AN ACT to provide for the preservation of the laws of this state.


Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representaives of the State of Michigan:

8.21 Acts and joint resolutions; binding.
Sec. 1. That the secretary of state be, and he is hereby required, to cause to be arranged and bound in a substantial manner, all acts and joint resolutions of the several legislatures of this state, which become laws under the constitution, so far as the same may be on file in his office.


8.22 Acts and joint resolutions; binding after enrollment, certificate, signatures.
Sec. 2. Hereafter, at the close of each session of the legislature, the secretary of state shall cause to be bound in like manner the enrolled acts and joint resolutions of the legislature, which shall become laws under the constitution of this state, and shall certify, under his hand and the seal of the state, on the frontispiece of the volume, that said volume contains the whole of the original acts and joint resolutions, as enrolled by the clerks, signed by the secretary of the senate and the clerk of the house of representatives, and approved by the governor, or which may have become laws under the constitution of this state, without his signature or approval.


8.23 Acts and joint resolutions; bound volumes as records, expenses.
Sec. 3. The acts and joint resolutions, when bound and certified, as specified in this act, shall be kept in the office of the secretary of state, and no further record thereof shall be required to be kept. The expenses of arranging and binding the laws, as specified in the preceding sections of this act, shall be paid by the treasurer of the state out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, on the certificate of the secretary of state.


COMPILATION OF LAWS
Act 242 of 1943

AN ACT to provide for the compilation of the general laws of this state and the compilation and revision of state administrative rules; and to prescribe certain functions of the legislative council and certain state agencies relative thereto.


*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

### 8.41 Compilations of laws and compilation of rules; legislative council; office of performance and transformation; duties.

Sec. 1. (1) The legislative council shall provide for the compilation of all general laws in force and shall make this compilation available to the general public.

(2) The office of performance and transformation shall provide for the compilation of administrative rules promulgated under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, and shall make this compilation available to the general public.

(3) The legislative council shall do all of the following in a compilation under subsection (1):
   (a) Arrange the general laws without alteration.
   (b) Provide appropriate headings and titles.
   (c) Provide for an index or means of searching the compilation.
   (d) Include any notes, references, and other materials the council considers necessary or appropriate.
   (e) Include the date that the compilation was last designated as official under section 7.
   (f) Identify the most recent public act included in the compilation.

(4) The office of performance and transformation shall do all of the following in a compilation under subsection (2):
   (a) Arrange the administrative rules without alteration.
   (b) Provide appropriate headings and titles.
   (c) Provide for an index or a means of searching the compilation.
   (d) Include any notes, references, and other materials the office of performance and transformation considers necessary or appropriate.

(5) The legislative council shall determine all matters concerning the format and content of the compilation under subsection (1) and the manner in which the compilation is made available to the general public.

(6) The office of performance and transformation shall determine all matters concerning the format and content of the compilation under subsection (2) and the manner in which the compilation is made available to the general public.


### 8.42 Administrative code; revision, procedure.

Sec. 2. (1) The office of regulatory reform shall provide for an orderly revision of the Michigan administrative code.

(2) Personnel working on the revision and the agency whose rules are being revised shall cooperate in the revision, but the decision of the revisers shall govern subject to review by the office of regulatory reform when requested by the agency.


### 8.43 Administrative code; revision; purpose.

Sec. 3. The revision of the Michigan administrative code shall clarify, simplify, and shorten rules while retaining their substance, sense, and meaning. The revision may include the following:

(a) Adopt a uniform system of style, printing, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and wording; eliminate obsolete and redundant words; eliminate duplications and rules rescinded indirectly or by implication; and clarify rules.

(b) Change headings, subheadings, authority paragraphs, and catchlines, rearrange rules, change reference numbers or words to correct the references, substitute figures for written words, and correct obvious clerical,
typographical, and grammatical errors, inaccuracies, inconsistencies, and omissions.

(c) Renumber rules and parts of rules, transfer rules, and divide or combine rules so as to give to distinct subject matters a separate rule number.

(d) Substitute the name of an officer, agency, or instrumentality, in which functions are currently vested, for the name of any other officer, agency, or instrumentality formerly vested with the same or similar functions.

(e) Omit temporary, emergency, and rescinding rules if a note indicates the nature and latest location in the Michigan administrative code of the omitted material.

(f) Modernize language to correspond to current drafting style for administrative rules.


### 8.44 Revised rules; publication; certificate.

Sec. 4. A revised rule is not subject to the requirements of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, pertaining to the processing and filing of a rule. It shall be published in the next interim or annual supplement to the Michigan administrative code, or both, or republication of the Michigan administrative code with a certificate of the office of regulatory reform, which may cover all of the revisions in the particular publication. The certificate shall indicate that the revised rules are a revision, without change in substance, of certain identified administrative rules and that the revision has been made in accordance with applicable law. The rule when so printed shall constitute a part of the Michigan administrative code in place of the text which was revised.


### 8.45 Contracts; supervision.

Sec. 5. (1) The council, in the case of the compiled laws, and the office of regulatory reform, in the case of rules, may enter into 1 or more contracts or provide for editorial work, printing, binding, indexing, and other work that it considers necessary and may provide that the compilations be privately printed and published and sold and distributed by the publishers on terms as the council and office of regulatory reform may prescribe.

(2) The work of preparing, editing, indexing, and publishing the compiled laws shall be under the direction and supervision of the council and the work of preparing, editing, indexing, and publishing the Michigan administrative code shall be under the supervision of the office of regulatory reform.


### 8.46 Republications; supplements.

Sec. 6. The council, in the case of the compiled laws, and the office of regulatory reform, in the case of the Michigan administrative code, may enter into 1 or more contracts or provide for the preparation and publication of subsequent editions and cumulative or other supplements. The contracts as to supplements may be awarded for a period of not more than 10 years under such terms as prescribed by the council, in the case of the compiled laws, and as prescribed by the office of regulatory reform, in the case of the Michigan administrative code.


### 8.47 Electronic compilation of compiled laws and rules; designate as official; contesting accuracy.

Sec. 7. (1) Not later than 180 days after the effective date of the 2018 amendatory act that amended this section, the legislative council shall examine the electronic compilation of the Michigan Compiled Laws and, if in compliance with this act, the legislative council shall designate the electronic compilation as official pursuant to chapter 1A of the legislative council act, 1986 PA 268, MCL 4.1121 to 4.1131. In addition, after the final adjournment of a regular session held in an even-numbered year, the legislative council shall authenticate that the compilation of the Michigan Compiled Laws is an accurate copy of the general laws in force through the end of that regular session.

(2) Before the compilation of the Michigan Administrative Code is made available to the general public, the office of performance and transformation shall examine the Michigan Administrative Code and, if in compliance with this act, the office of performance and transformation shall designate the electronic compilation as official pursuant to chapter 1A of the legislative council act, 1986 PA 286, MCL 4.1121 to 4.1131.

(3) After the designation as official under subsection (1) or (2), the Michigan Compiled Laws and the Michigan Administrative Code, as appropriate, are considered to be the official statutes and administrative rules of this state and evidence in all courts having jurisdiction. An individual contesting the accuracy of a
compilation of the Michigan Compiled Laws or the Michigan Administrative Code designated as official under this section has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the compilation is not accurate.


**Compiler's note:** For the transfer of powers and duties of the office of performance and transformation under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, to the Michigan office of administrative hearings and rules, and abolishment of the Michigan administrative hearings system, office of regulatory reinvention, and office of performance and transformation, see E.R.O. 2019-1, compiled at 324.99923.

### 8.48 Compiled laws and administrative code; purchase; distribution.

Sec. 8. The council shall purchase a sufficient number of sets of the compiled laws and the office of regulatory reform shall purchase a sufficient number of sets of the Michigan administrative code to be distributed in the manner provided by law.


**UNIFORMITY OF LEGISLATION**

Act 196 of 1909


**INDEX OF GENERAL LAWS**

Act 166 of 1929


**LAWS GIVEN IMMEDIATE EFFECT**

Act 14 of 1897