

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 924

H. P. 710

House of Representatives, February 19, 1969

Referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and 1,000 ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to State Historian.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 27, §§ 67, 68, repealed. Sections 67 and 68 of Title 27 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, are repealed.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 27, §§ 261-267, repealed. Sections 261 to 267 of Title 27 of the Revised Statutes are repealed.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 27, § 279, amended. The 2nd sentence of section 279 of Title 27 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 441 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

The board shall consist of the Attorney General, the Commissioner of Finance and Administration, the State Librarian ~~the State Historian~~ and Registrar of Vital Statistics, each of whom shall serve as an ex officio member, and 6 persons especially interested in the history of the State appointed by the Governor as advisors for overlapping terms of 6 years.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 27, §§ 280-287, additional. Title 27 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding 8 new sections, numbered 280 to 287, to read as follows:

§ 280. State Historian

The State Archivist shall appoint a State Historian who shall be qualified by special training or experience in historical work. He shall hold office at the pleasure of the State Archivist and shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the State Archivist with approval of the Governor. The State Historian shall perform such duties as the State Archivist may prescribe, except as otherwise provided by law.

§ 281. Powers and duties

The Maine State Archives, through the State Historian, shall have authority:

1. Research. To carry on research work relating to the history of the State;
2. Editing. To compile, edit and prepare public records and other historical material for publication;
3. Promotion. To stimulate, encourage, promote and assist research, study and publication in the field of Maine history.

§ 282. Publication of town history

The State Historian shall encourage the compiling and publishing of town histories, combined with local geography. He shall examine material presented by any town for publication as a history of the town and if he decides that the material is suitable for use in the grammar and high school grades of the public schools, may approve the material for publication.

Whenever material for a town history with local geography has been approved by the State Historian and the same has been published by the town, or by a union of towns, and provision has been made for its regular use in the public schools of said town, the Treasurer of State shall pay the town so publishing a sum not exceeding \$150. The State shall not pay to any town more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount paid by said town for printing and binding the history thereof.

§ 283. Board to compile history

The superintending school committee and the superintendent of schools, with some citizen of the town to be elected by them, shall constitute a board to compile a history and the local geography of the town in which they reside. Two or more towns may unite in compiling and publishing a history and the local geography of the towns forming the union. The superintendent of schools shall forward 2 copies of such history to the State Library and notify the superintendent of public schools of the title of said history.

§ 284. Published records of vital statistics purchased

Whenever the record of the births, marriages and deaths of any town in the State, previous to the year 1892, beginning at the very earliest date, shall be collected from church records, church registers, records of clergymen, family Bibles, public records and other available sources, and shall be printed and verified in the manner required by the State Historian, the Maine State Archives shall purchase 200 copies of such complete record at a price not less than \$3 per copy. Not more than \$3,000 shall be expended under this section in any one year. The Maine State Archives shall sell all copies not required for state institutional use at a reasonable price fixed at the time of sale to any library and to individuals, the sale price not to be lower than the price paid per volume, the money thus obtained to be paid to the Treasurer of State.

§ 285. Records of vital statistics distributed

The records of vital statistics so purchased shall be distributed by the Maine State Archives as follows: To each registry of deeds in the State, and to such libraries and historical societies as may wish to receive them. The remainder shall be kept by the Maine State Archives for exchange and agency use.

§ 286. Marking of historical sites

The marking of historical sites, as authorized by the Legislature, shall be under the direction of the State Historian.

§ 287. Names for memorial bridges and highways

The State Historian shall submit to the Legislature the names of persons or subjects whenever any legislation is pending to designate any highway or bridge as a memorial.