

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 425

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House of Representatives, March 15, 1919.

Referred to Committee on Education in concurrence on motion of Mr. Allan of Portland and 500 copies ordered printed.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Senator Walker of Somerset.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND  
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN

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AN ACT to Amend Section One Hundred Thirty-seven of Chapter Sixteen of the Revised Statutes Relating to the Maintaining of Evening Schools, and to Provide for Americanization and the Reducing of Illiteracy.

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

Section one hundred thirty-seven of chapter sixteen of the  
2 revised statutes is hereby amended by adding to said section  
3 the following words 'provided, however, that for the purpose  
4 of Americanization and also for the purpose of reducing il-  
5 literacy within the state all towns and cities in which there  
6 are persons of normal mentality over eighteen years of age

7 who are unable to read, to write and to speak the English  
8 language to a reasonable degree of efficiency, or who are  
9 unable to read and to write in any language, are hereby  
10 authorized to organize and conduct evening schools or  
11 classes in which such persons of foreign birth or foreign ex-  
12 traction shall be given opportunity to learn to read, to write  
13 and to speak the English language and to learn the duties of  
14 citizens in a democracy, and also in which illiterates shall be  
15 given opportunity to learn to read and to write and to pur-  
16 sue such other subjects as will increase their civic intelli-  
17 gence. Such schools and classes shall meet the approval of  
18 the state superintendent of schools in regard to the qualifica-  
19 tions of instructors, length of term and subjects offered and  
20 towns maintaining them shall be reimbursed to the same  
21 extent and in the same manner as for other schools and  
22 classes set forth in this section,' so that said section when  
23 amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 37. Whenever the superintending school committee  
2 of any town shall have maintained during the school year an  
3 evening school as provided by section twenty-five, said town  
4 shall be reimbursed by the state a sum equal to two-thirds the  
5 amount paid for instruction in such evening school, provided  
6 there shall have been offered, in addition to the subjects else-  
7 where prescribed for evening schools, courses in the com-  
8 mercial branches, the domestic and manual arts or the  
9 elements of the trades, said courses to be subject to the ap-  
10 proval of the state superintendent of public schools; no town

11 shall be entitled to receive a reimbursement under the pro-  
12 visions of this section, unless the total average attendance in  
13 said courses shall equal not less than twenty-five per cent of  
14 the average attendance of the school; provided, however, that  
15 for the purpose of Americanization and also for the purpose  
16 of reducing illiteracy within the state all towns and cities in  
17 which there are persons of normal mentality over eighteen  
18 years of age who are unable to read, to write and to speak the  
19 English language to a reasonable degree of efficiency, or who  
20 are unable to read and to write in any language, are hereby  
21 authorized to organize and conduct evening schools or classes  
22 in which such persons of foreign birth or foreign extraction  
23 shall be given opportunity to learn to read, to write and to  
24 speak the English language and to learn the duties of citizens  
25 in a democracy, and also in which illiterates shall be given  
26 opportunity to learn to read and to write and to pursue such  
27 other subjects as will increase their civic intelligence. Such  
28 schools and classes shall meet the approval of the state super-  
29 intendent of schools in regard to the qualifications of instruc-  
30 tors, length of term and subjects offered and towns main-  
31 taining them shall be reimbursed to the same extent and in  
32 the same manner as for other schools and classes set forth  
33 in this section.