

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 523

House of Representatives, March 29, 1919.

Majority report (referring same to next Legislature with accompanying order) Minority report (O. T. P.) of Committee on Education. On motion of Mr. Washburn of Perry were tabled pending acceptance of either report and bill and order ordered printed.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide for the Distribution of State School Funds
Available for the Support of Common Schools.

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

Section 1. In this act the word "town" shall include the
2 cities, towns and plantations in which common schools are
3 established and controlled by the several municipalities;
4 the expression "aggregate attendance" shall be understood
5 to be the sum total of the number of days attendance for
6 any one school year of each regularly enrolled pupil of a
7 common school: the words "common school fund" shall be

8 understood to be the sum total of one-half the tax on sav-
9 ings banks as provided by law, one-half the tax on trust
10 and banking companies as provided by law, a sum equal
11 to six per cent of the permanent school fund as provided
12 by law, together with all moneys received by the treasurer
13 of state under sections one hundred fifty-five, one hundred
14 fifty-six, one hundred fifty-nine and one hundred sixty of
15 chapter sixteen of the revised statutes.

Sect. 2. The common school fund not otherwise appro-
2 priated by law shall be distributed by the treasurer of state
3 to the towns on the first day of December nineteen hundred
4 twenty, and annually thereafter, according to the aggregate
5 attendance of scholars in each town as the same shall appear
6 from the official returns made to the state superintendent
7 of public schools for the preceding school year as provided
8 for by section sixty-one of chapter sixteen of the revised
9 statutes. Said return shall include such facts in regard to
10 attendance and days when schools are in session as the
11 state superintendent of public schools shall determine and
12 may be required to be attested by the teachers in charge of
13 the schools.

Sect. 3. The aggregate attendance of scholars in a town
2 shall be determined by the state superintendent of public
3 schools by adding the total number of days each pupil was
4 in actual attendance, provided that attendance of each reg-
5 ularly enrolled pupil shall be counted for each school holi-
6 day, for each day of the school year when there was no ses-

7 sion of school because of the absence of the teacher in at-
8 tendance on teachers' meetings as provided by law, for not
9 more than one day in each term when there was no session
10 of school because of the absence of the teacher in visiting
11 other schools when so authorized by the superintending
12 school committee, and for each day of the school year, not
13 to exceed a total of fifteen school days in any one school
14 year, when there was no session of school by order of the
15 proper authorities because of the prevalence of an epidemic
16 or because of the unfitness of the schoolbuilding from the
17 effects of fire or other unpreventable cause, provided such
18 loss of sessions is not afterward made up. For all schools
19 lawfully established and maintained there shall be reck-
20 oned a minimum of aggregate attendance of fifteen hun-
21 dred days. The attendance of pupils in union schools es-
22 tablished as provided by law shall be credited to the town
23 in which the school is located, and the amounts to be con-
24 tributed by each town for the maintenance of such school
25 shall be determined by the superintending school commit-
26 tees of the said towns.

Sect. 4. The state superintendent of public schools, with
2 the approval of the governor and council, shall formulate
3 such rules and regulations in regard to recording attend-
4 ance in schools as may be necessary for the administration
5 of the provisions of this act.

Sect. 5. When in the opinion of the state superintendent
2 of public schools there is cause to investigate any returns

3 made to him as provided by the preceding sections, he shall
4 report the same to the governor and council with his recom-
5 mendations, and with the approval of the governor and
6 council he shall make such investigation as shall determine
7 the true aggregate attendance as provided in this act.

Sect. 6. One-half the amount received by any town from
2 the distribution provided herein shall be deemed to be raised
3 by such town within the meaning of section sixteen in said
4 chapter sixteen of the revised statutes.

Sect. 7. This act shall take effect January first, nineteen
2 hundred twenty. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent
3 with this act are hereby repealed.

Ordered, that whereas the seventy-ninth legislature has under consideration a bill to provide for the distribution of state school funds for which there is little time to give the proper amount of investigation and consideration, therefore,

Ordered, the Senate concurring, that a special committee of seven be appointed, two by the President of the Senate, three by the Speaker of the House, and two by the Governor, and that said committee be directed to investigate the present and proposed methods of distribution of school funds and private schools and academies with their relation to the public school system.

It is further recommended that this committee be identical with the committee to investigate and report on the state university.