

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 397

H. P. 919 House of Representatives, Feb. 6, 1931.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Additon of Auburn.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE

AN ACT Relative to the Apportionment of State Aid to
Agricultural Societies.

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

Section twenty-five of chapter thirty-nine of the revised statutes is hereby amended by inserting in the fifty-fifth line thereof after the word "commissioner" the following: 'and in the distribution of such stipend no allowance shall be made or consideration given on account of lump sums, payments or premiums previously arranged and agreed upon by exhibitors and the officers of any agricultural society for the presentation and display of any animals or products without regard to competition which may subsequently appear.' So that section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 25. State aid to agricultural societies; apportionment; special provision for Maine Pomological Society; procedure for apportioning stipend. R. S. 34, § 18, 1923, c. 155. 1927, c. 126. 1929, c. 188. There shall be appropriated annually from the state treasury a sum of money not to exceed four cents per inhabitant of the state, which shall be known as the state stipend for aid and encouragement to agricultural societies and hereafter in this chapter designated as the stipend. This stipend shall be divided among the legally incorporated agricultural clubs, societies and fair associations of

the state, hereafter in this chapter designated as societies, according to the following schedule and method. Two thousand dollars shall be paid annually to the Maine Pomological Society and the balance of aid stipend shall be divided pro rata among the legally incorporated societies, not heretofore provided for according to the amount of premiums and gratuities actually paid in full and in cash or valuable equivalent by said societies upon live stock and agricultural and domestic products, but no such society whether specifically mentioned in this chapter or otherwise shall be entitled to any share of the stipend unless it shall have complied with the following requirements, which shall be considered by the commissioner of agriculture hereinafter known as the commissioner, as the basis upon which his apportionment of the stipend shall be made as provided in section eight of this chapter. Each society claiming a share of the stipend under this section shall file with the commissioner not later than December thirty-first of the year for which said stipend is requested, a statement made under oath, by its treasurer, setting forth the financial condition and transactions of the society, the amounts paid in premiums in the several classes or displays herein provided for, and such additional information relative to the character of displays, and the conduct of exhibitions as the commissioner may request, and upon blanks to be furnished by him. No premiums or gratuities shall be considered by the commissioner in apportioning the amount of stipend to which any society is entitled except those offered and paid upon livestock, poultry, vegetables, grain, fruit, flowers, livestock products, home canned foods, grange exhibits, farm exhibits, boys' and girls' club exhibits, domestic and fancy articles produced in the farm home, and pulling contests by horses and oxen, and in no case shall the amount allowed on account of premiums paid in said class of domestic and fancy articles exceed the total amount allowed as premiums upon vegetables, grain, fruits and flowers. No society, the Maine Pomological Society excepted, shall receive from the state a sum greater than that actually raised and paid by the society as premiums and gratuities in the classes herein provided, and in no case shall any society be entitled to any share of the stipend unless it shall have raised and paid in premiums in the classes here-

tofore set forth at least four hundred dollars. No society shall receive any portion of the stipend in excess of three thousand dollars. No society shall receive any portion of such stipend unless it shall have regularly entered and displayed in an attractive manner upon its exhibition grounds not less than one hundred separate and distinct exhibits or entries of vegetables, fruits or dairy products of a quality acceptable to the commissioner or his regularly authorized agent and of varieties known to be common or standard to the county in which such exhibition is held. The stipend may, however, be paid to such agricultural society or societies as may display a lesser number of exhibits of vegetables, fruits, or dairy products, than as hereinbefore required, provided the commissioner shall certify that in his opinion such society or societies have been unable for good and sufficient reasons to secure such required number of exhibits. No society shall be entitled to any share of the stipend unless it shall require all cattle exhibited or allowed upon its grounds at exhibition time to be tuberculin tested within three years previous to the date of its exhibition and declared free from tuberculosis by a veterinarian approved by the commissioner, and in the distribution of such stipend no allowance shall be made or consideration given on account of lump sums, payments or premiums previously arranged and agreed upon by exhibitors and the officers of any agricultural society for the presentation and display of any animals or products without regard to competition which may subsequently appear. Each and all societies receiving aid from the state under this section shall cause the prohibitory law to be enforced on all grounds over which they have control and not allow immoral shows, gambling in any form, or games of chance on said grounds. Neglect or failure on the part of any society to observe any of the foregoing requirements shall be deemed sufficient cause for withholding such society's share of the stipend, and the commissioner is required and directed to authorize payment of stipend only to such societies as have observed all of the said requirements.'