

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# N I N E T Y - T H I R D   L E G I S L A T U R E

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1111**

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H. P. 1511

House of Representatives, February 26, 1947.

Transmitted by revisor of statutes pursuant to joint order

On motion of Mr. Rankin of Bridgton tabled pending reference. Special-ly assigned for Thursday, Feb. 27, 1947 and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Rankin of Bridgton.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-SEVEN

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### **AN ACT to Provide for the Joining of Towns for the Purpose of Providing Better School Facilities.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 37, § 1, amended.** Section 1 of chapter 37 of the re-vised statutes is hereby amended by repealing the 2nd sentence thereof.

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 37, §§ 92-A-92-I, additional.** Chapter 37 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto 9 new sections to be num-bered 92-A to 92-I, inclusive, to read as follows :

**Sec. 92-A. Combination of towns to provide school facilities.** Two or more towns or cities may, by vote at a regular or special town meeting or election duly called, join for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a community school under such name as the inhabitants of the several towns shall vote to adopt at such meeting or election. Said school shall be under the management of a committee as hereinafter provided and shall be supported by the participating towns in proportion to the number of pupils enrolled in said school from each town.

**Sec. 92-B. Organization of community school committee.** A com-munity school committee shall consist of not more than 9 members, the

number to be determined by the participating towns. The representation of each town shall be in approximately the same ratio to the total membership of the committee as the town's enrollment is to the enrollment in that school; provided, however, that no town shall have less than 1 nor more than 3 representatives on the committee; provided further, that the school committee of the town having more than half the pupils enrolled in the community school shall have the power to veto any vote of the community school committee. The superintending school committee of each town shall choose from its membership the representation on the community school committee to which that town is entitled as above provided and membership on the community committee shall be coterminous with the member's term of office on the superintending school committee of the town which he represents. Vacancies shall be filled by the school committee of the town in whose representation the vacancy occurs. Adjustments in the representation of the several towns shall be made whenever changes in the enrollment from the individual towns make the existing representation in conflict with the provisions of this section. The committee shall at its first meeting and annually in April thereafter choose by ballot from its membership a chairman and a treasurer. The treasurer shall be custodian of all funds accruing to the community school and shall pay all bills when properly attested by the superintendent of schools and signed by the chairman of the committee. Such treasurer shall give bond to the community school committee to the satisfaction of the members thereof. The cost of such bond shall be borne by the school. The treasurer may, by vote of the committee, receive compensation for his services.

Sec. 92-C. Powers and duties of committee. The community school committee shall be a body politic and corporate, which shall have all the powers and duties with respect to the community school conferred upon superintending school committees under the general statutes, and, in addition shall have power to select sites, subject as to size and suitability to the approval of the commissioner of education, and to purchase and hold title to real estate and personal property, build, equip, organize and operate for the benefit of the participating towns a community secondary school, which may also include grades 7 and 8. The community school committee is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into such agreement or agreements for the loan of money or other assistance with such projects as the community school committee is authorized to carry out.

Sec. 92-D. Payment for building and equipment, maintenance and operation. The cost of building and equipping the community school shall be borne by the participating towns in the same proportion that the valu-

ation of each town is to the total valuation of the aforesaid towns, said valuations to be those determined by the board of equalization, and set forth by it in the statement filed by it as provided by section 65 of chapter 14. Later additions recommended by the committee and approved by the towns shall be financed in the same manner.

As a part of the original contract among the towns each town shall vote to raise and appropriate its share of the cost of the school plant and equipment and shall pay the same to the treasurer of the community school committee. The cost of operation and maintenance shall be prorated to the several towns on the basis of the maximum membership at such school of pupils from each participating town during the preceding year, provided that until such school shall have been in operation for 1 year, such prorating shall be based on the maximum membership of pupils from each such town in comparable grades during the preceding year. Costs of special courses approved by the towns shall be apportioned as above.

Sec. 92-E. Payment of costs of operation and maintenance. The community school committee shall determine what amount is necessary each year for operation and maintenance of said community school, shall proportion the amount amongst the towns participating in the community school as provided in section 92-D and shall each year before the 1st day of January issue their warrants in the same form as the warrant of the treasurer of state for taxes, with proper charges to the assessors of the respective towns participating in said community school to deduct the amount of subsidies accruing to the town because of its share in the community school and further requiring the assessors of each such town to assess a sum thus apportioned and determined upon the taxable polls and estates within each of such participating towns and to commit their assessment to the constable or collector of each such participating town who shall have all authority and powers to collect said taxes as is vested by law to collect state, county and municipal taxes. The treasurer of each participating town shall make payments of the amount of each annual warrant from subsidy receipts and funds derived from taxation in acceptable installments to the treasurer of the community school committee.

Sec. 92-F. Application of general law. Community schools as herein provided when established shall be considered the official secondary school of each participating town and all provisions of the general law relating to public education shall apply to said school. All subsidies accruing to the community school shall be paid to the participating towns in amounts proportionate to their maximum memberships.

Sec. 92-G. Transportation. Transportation shall be provided by the community school committee in the same manner as is provided for transportation of elementary school pupils in section 8 of chapter 37, the expenditures for transportation to be considered an expense of operation of said school.

Sec. 92-H. Superintendent of schools. The superintendent of schools of the town in which a community school is located shall be superintendent of the community school and shall have the same duties, powers, and responsibilities with respect to said school and its committee as are prescribed by law for public school superintendents.

Sec. 92-I. Dissolution; changes in participating towns. Whenever all of the participating towns vote to do so in the same manner as is prescribed for establishing the community school, the community school committee may be dissolved and the assets of the community school divided amongst the participating towns in proportion to their respective investments.

Towns not originally in the participating group of towns may be included, or participating towns may be released from the community school organization, upon vote of all the towns concerned in the same manner as is prescribed for the establishing of the community school, under such terms and arrangements as may be recommended by the community school committee and approved by such vote, provided the cost to applying towns or the payment to withdrawing towns shall be based on a fair valuation as determined by impartial, competent appraisers.'