

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1843.

AUGUSTA:

WM. R. SMITH & Co., PRINTERS TO THE STATE.



1843.

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

No. 34.]

[HOUSE.

A N A C T

IN RELATION TO

COMMON SCHOOLS.

[WM. R. SMITH & Co....Printers to the State.]

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND
FORTY-THREE.

AN ACT to promote the usefulness of Common Schools.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives in Legislature assembled—*as follows :

SECTION 1. The governor and council are hereby
2 authorized to appoint thirteen school commissioners,
3 one from each county in the State.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of each commissioner
2 during the year to visit every town and city in the
3 county for which he is appointed and as many of the
4 districts in each town while the schools are in actual
5 operation as he can consistently with the provisions of
6 this act,—to address the people in each town by pub-
7 lic lectures or otherwise, upon subjects connected di-
3 rectly with common school education—to collect and
9 disseminate information with regard to the location,
10 construction, ventilating, and warming of school hou-
11 ses: to consult with school committees and other
12 friends of education, upon the best and cheapest
13 method of introducing and preserving a good and
14 uniform system of text books: to consider the practi-

15 cability and expediency of school district libraries : to
16 obtain and diffuse facts in reference to "Normal schools,"
17 or seminaries for the special purpose of qualifying
18 teachers, for their duties: to enquire into the expediency
19 of having school teaching become a permanent occupa-
20 tion, rather than a mere incidental employment; to
21 investigate the utility of organizing a high school in
22 each town for the more advanced scholars of the sev-
23 eral districts: to collect and inculcate information
24 upon the most humane and efficient method of gov-
25 erning and disciplining schools: to encourage the
26 most successful and approved modes of imparting
27 instruction: to confer with committees and teach-
28 ers, upon the probable tendencies of the various
29 motives presented to scholars as incentives to action :
30 to procure and impart information in reference to the
31 improvement now being made in the " common school
32 system" in this and other countries: to discuss the
33 utility of patronizing and disseminating periodicals
34 and other books, devoted to general education: to
35 call the attention of teachers and others to the benefits
36 that might result from county conventions and asso-
37 ciations: to recommend such other means, as will be
38 most likely to awaken the public mind to the best in-
39 terests of our common schools: and to make a full
40 and specific report to the secretary of State during
41 the month of January, annually.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the secretary of State
2 to make an abstract of such statistical information,

3 and such extracts from the commissioners reports as
4 the governor and council may deem advisable: to
5 cause the same to be printed, and a copy sent to each
6 school district in the State.

SEC. 4. Each commissioner shall be paid for his
2 services out of the money accruing from the bank
3 tax; a sum not exceeding two dollars per day for his
4 services, and one dollar for his expenses: *provided*
5 *however*, that no commissioner shall be paid for a
6 greater number of days than the number of towns,
7 which he actually visits in the discharge of the duties
8 of his commission.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 18, 1843. }

Laid on the table, and 300 copies ordered to be printed for the
use of the Legislature.

WM. T. JOHNSON, *Clerk.*