

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1853.

Augusta:
WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1853.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT establishing the office of County Superin-
tendents of Public Schools.

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

SECTION 1. There shall be appointed by the Governor,
2 with the advice and consent of the Council, a Super-
3 intendent of Common Schools in each county of the
4 State, who shall hold his office for the term of three
5 years, from the time of his appointment, unless sooner
6 removed by the Governor and Council.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of each Superintendent
2 to visit every city, town or plantation (and such
3 unincorporated places as the interests of popular
4 education may in his judgment require,) in the county

for which he is appointed, once or oftener in every
6 year; and he shall apportion to each town, connecting
7 therewith adjacent plantations and unincorporated
8 places, such number of days as shall make an average
9 of five days to each town and city in his county dur-
10 ing the year; for the purpose of promoting therein
11 the cause of education, by public addresses, by con-
12 ference with teachers, and school officers, on matters
13 pertaining to their respective duties, by visiting schools,
14 inspecting and recommending improvements in school
15 houses, and employing such other means, as in his
16 judgment may conduce to the general welfare of the
17 schools under his supervision.

SECT. 3. The Superintendents for the several counties
2 shall meet annually, at Augusta, on the first Tuesday
3 in May, and shall, in their associated capacity, con-
4 stitute a "Board of Superintendents of Public Instruc-
5 tion," with power to choose a chairman and secretary;
6 and, at said annual meeting, each member shall pre-
7 sent a written report of the condition of schools and
8 school-houses in his county, with a detailed statement
9 of his official labors, and such observations and facts
10 as may have come within his knowledge, together with
11 such other matters as the Board may from time to

12 time direct, or the Legislature may require; which
 13 said reports, together with the report of the Board,
 14 containing such suggestions and information calculated
 15 to promote the cause of popular education, as to them
 16 may seem proper, shall be laid before the Governor
 17 and Council, to be disposed of as hereinafter provided.
 18 And it is hereby further provided, that the first meet-
 19 ing of said Board, for the purpose of organization,
 20 shall be held at such time and place as the Governor
 21 may direct, immediately after their appointment.

SECT. 4. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of
 2 State, as soon as may be, after said reports are laid
 3 before the Governor and Council, to cause to be printed
 4 such number of copies of the same, for distribution
 5 among the members of the Legislature, the county
 6 Superintendents, and the several school officers, as the
 7 Governor and Council may from time to time direct.

SECT. 5. The salaries of the several Superintendents
 2 shall be paid out of the general school fund, and
 3 shall be as follows, to wit:

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------|
| 4 | For the county of York, | \$400 00 |
| 5 | “ “ “ “ Cumberland, | 500 00 |
| 6 | “ “ “ “ Lincoln, | 600 00 |
| 7 | “ “ “ “ Hancock, | 300 00 |

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---------|
| 8 | For the county of Washington, | 350 00. |
| 9 | “ “ “ “ Kennebec, | 450 00 |
| 10 | “ “ “ “ Oxford, | 500 00 |
| 11 | “ “ “ “ Somerset, | 400 00 |
| 12 | “ “ “ “ Penobscot, | 500 00 |
| 13 | “ “ “ “ Waldo, | 400 00 |
| 14 | “ “ “ “ Piscataquis, | 250 00 |
| 15 | “ “ “ “ Franklin, | 250 00 |
| 16 | “ “ “ “ Aroostook, | 300 00 |

17 And said salaries shall be paid out on the warrant of
 18 the Governor in quarterly payments; in addition to
 19 which, there shall be paid to each Superintendent who
 20 shall attend the annual session, aforesaid, the same
 21 mileage and the same per diem allowance, as are paid
 22 to the members of the Legislature; but said session
 23 shall not continue longer than fifteen days. And the
 24 expense of said session, and all charges for printing
 25 and incidental expenses shall be paid out of any funds
 26 in the treasury.

SECT. 6. No Superintendent shall be the agent of
 2 any bookseller, or have any interest in any school
 3 books, whatever, unless as author, or in the sale of
 4 any school books; and if it shall be made to appear
 5 to the Governor and Council, that any Superintendent

6 has been thus employed, he shall not be entitled to
7 any compensation under the provisions of this act, for
8 his services, and he shall be immediately removed.

SECT. 7. It shall be the duty of the Superintendents,
2 each in his own county, to examine carefully the char-
3 acter of all school books used in the schools of his
4 county; and if he find any so used that, in his opinion,
5 are calculated to mislead the mind in any matter of
6 fact, morality or history, he shall direct the attention
7 of the superintending school committee, or super-
8 visors, having charge of said schools, thereto, who
9 shall immediately exclude from the schools all books
10 found to be of such character.

SECT. 8. Each Superintendent shall have authority
2 to examine as to the character and qualifications of
3 teachers resident in his own county, as provided in
4 the second and third clauses of section first, article
5 five, of the Act, entitled "An Act to provide for the
6 Education of Youth," approved August 27, 1850, and
7 to grant the certificates therein named, which said
8 certificate shall be in force for the term of three years,
9 unless sooner revoked; and any teacher who shall
10 have procured such certificate, shall be authorized
11 thereby to teach in any town, within the county afore-

12 said, for and during the time aforesaid, without
13 procuring any certificate from any Superintending
14 School Committee or Supervisor of Schools: *Provided,*
15 *however,* that in all cases said certificate shall be
16 countersigned by the Superintending School Commit-
17 tee, or Supervisor of Schools of the town in which
18 such person proposes to teach.

SECT. 9. An Act establishing the office of Commis-
2 sioners of Common Schools, approved April 26, 1852,
3 and all Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with the
4 provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed.

SECT. 10. This Act shall take effect from and after
2 the first Tuesday in May, one thousand eight hundred
3 and fifty-three.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 17, 1853.

ORDERED, That the printing of 1000 copies of the foregoing Bill reported by the Committee on Education be procured for the use of the Legislature.

LOUIS O. COWAN, *Secretary.*