

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Wm. F. Hill
DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1856.

PART SECOND.

Augusta:

FULLER & FULLER, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1856.

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 16.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to establish a Board of Agriculture.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :

SECTION 1. A State Board of Agriculture is hereby
2 established, to consist of one member from each of
3 the incorporated agricultural and horticultural socie-
4 ties in the state, provided they do not exceed twenty-
5 eight in number; and the governor and secretary of
6 state shall be members of the board, *ex officio*. Said
7 members, from said societies, shall hold their offices
8 for three years, except as hereinafter provided. And
9 said societies shall elect said members by ballot, at the
10 annual meetings or fairs of such societies, or at any

11 regular meetings thereof called for such purpose; and
12 they shall receive a certificate of their election, signed
13 by the president and secretary of such society; and
14 in case of any vacancy occurring in the representa-
15 tion of any society at this board, it may be filled by
16 an appointment by the president and secretary of
17 such society.

· SECT. 2. At the first meeting of this board, elected
2 as aforesaid, and which is hereby designated to be
3 held at the state house in Augusta, on the third
4 Wednesday of January next, the members from the
5 societies aforesaid, shall be divided into three equal
6 classes, as nearly as may be; and the term of office
7 of the first class shall expire on the third Wednesday
8 of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-eight;
9 the second class, on the third Wednesday of January,
10 A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-nine; and the third
11 class, on the third Wednesday of January, A. D.
12 eighteen hundred and sixty. The expiration of each
13 class shall be determined by lot by the whole board,
14 and the vacancies thus created shall be filled by the
15 respective societies in which such vacancies may
16 occur.

SECT. 3. At the first meeting of the Board of Agri-
2 culture, and at each annual meeting on the third

3 Wednesday of January thereafter, the board shall
4 organize by the choice of a president and such other
5 officers as may be deemed necessary.

SECT. 4. It shall be the duty of this board to in-
2 vestigate all such subjects relating to agriculture,
3 horticulture and the arts connected therewith, in this
4 state, as they may think proper; and it is hereby
5 empowered to take, hold in trust and exercise control
6 over any donations or bequests that may be made to
7 it for promoting agricultural education or the gen-
8 eral interests of husbandry.

SECT. 5. The Board of Agriculture shall meet at
2 the state house, in Augusta, once a year; and they
3 are hereby empowered annually to elect a suitable
4 person to act as secretary of the board, and to pre-
5 scribe and determine his duties; and in case of
6 vacancy by death or otherwise, the governor with the
7 advice of his council is hereby empowered to fill the
8 same. And all reports and returns required by law
9 to be made by said societies, shall be made and re-
10 turned to the secretary of this board. The governor
11 and council shall determine his compensation, which
12 shall not exceed eight hundred dollars per annum
13 and such necessary traveling and incidental expenses
14 as may accrue in the discharge of his duties; and the

15 compensation of the members of the Board of Agri-
16 culture shall be the same as the members of the
17 legislature, for a term not exceeding fifteen days.
18 And the said board shall, annually, on or before the
19 second Wednesday of January, by its secretary, sub-
20 mit to the legislature a detailed report of its doings,
21 together with a digest of the returns of the several
22 agricultural and horticultural societies, and of such
23 statistics as he may be able to collect, with such
24 recommendations and suggestions as the interests of
25 agriculture may be deemed to require, and cause not
26 more than three thousand copies thereof to be printed
27 by the printer of the state, five hundred thereof being
28 for the use of the legislature, and the remainder for
29 distribution, under the direction of the board, among
30 the farmers of the state.

SECT. 6. The governor shall draw his warrant on
2 the treasurer, from time to time, for such sums of
3 money as may be necessary to defray the salaries and
4 expenses provided for by this act, an account thereof
5 having been first rendered by the secretary of the
6 board and audited by the executive council; and a
7 sum not exceeding three thousand dollars annually is
8 hereby appropriated to meet such expenses.

SECT. 7. The present executive committee of the
2. State Agricultural Society shall constitute the Board
3 of Agriculture for the current year.

SECT. 8. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent
2 with this act are hereby repealed.



STATE OF MAINE.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 13, 1856. }

ORDERED, That 350 copies of this Bill be printed.

DAVID DUNN, *Clerk.*