

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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September 17, 1929

Memorandum of conference with State Auditor and State Superintendent of Schools, September 13th.

In re Academy Aid

The appropriation bill having made an item not only of \$24,000 for highway aid, but also an item of \$85,000, which sums therefore went into the total appropriations for which the state tax was levied, both these sums may be paid directly from state tax receipts, and the \$85,000 does not, during the years covered by the appropriation bill, come out of the school funds as specified by the General Act. In the future, appropriation bills should be consistent with the high school aid act with respect to the amount. To take it out of the state school funds this year would diminish the amounts coming back to the towns. This would have to be done if the appropriation act were consistent with the high school aid act, but, the inconsistency existing, the appropriation act prevails.

In re Tuition Unorganized Townships

Funds paid to towns for tuition for scholars from unorganized townships at present are paid between July and December from the appropriation expiring June 30th on the basis of bills rendered covering the year expiring June 30th. This is consistent with the general requirements of law in all other departments; viz, - that payments should be made from current appropriations covering current obligations.

Some state school funds are by law handled differently from this general requirement:- viz, - moneys refunded to the towns in December from the current appropriation on the basis of attendance during the year ending the previous June 30th. This is, however, an exception to the general principle and should not be extended in the face of the general law.

The change, if any, should be by treating all school funds in the same way as appropriations for other departments, except the highway department, are concerned, or by making them continue the appropriations like the highway funds.

The first of these two alternatives would require a special appropriation in one year to bring the new system into play, and there would be the disadvantage that great amounts of school funds would stand undisbursed during the last half of the calendar year, to be paid out for matters that originated during the twelve months prior to June 30th.

The particular reason for urging the change with reference to schooling of children from unorganized townships is that it would make possible the payment this year from an increased current appropriation of last year's charges. Otherwise, part of last year's

charges must come on to the contingent fund as a deficit,- probably \$3000.00. As a matter of law, however, apparently this is the only thing that can be done. Such deficit as exists for the schooling during the twelve months prior to June 30, 1929, will have to be made up after December 31, 1929, out of the contingent fund for the year ending June 30, 1929.

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