

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

REPORT

OF THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL

for the calendar years
1951 - 1954

“(2) Is it legally possible for a school committee to accept a gift of Bibles, from an organization like the Gideons, with the express understanding that the manner and extent of their distribution and use in the schools will be determined by the school committee?”

We would direct your attention to section 127 of Chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes which in part provides that in order “to make available to the youth of our land the book which has been the inspiration of the greatest masterpieces of literature, art and music and which has been the strength of the great men and women of the Christian era, there shall be, in all the public schools of the State . . . reading from the Scriptures. . .”

It is our opinion that both of your questions can be answered in the affirmative, there being nothing inconsistent with such action with respect to the above quoted provision of our law.

ALEXANDER A. LaFLEUR
Attorney General

May 6, 1953

To Allan L. Robbins, Warden, Maine State Prison
Re: Property of Deceased Prisoners

We have your memo in which you state that you have on hand an accumulation of personal property and cash belonging to deceased prisoners. You seek our advice concerning the disposition of such personal effects and cash.

When a prisoner dies in your institution leaving money on deposit, that money and other property should be disposed of under the provisions of section 47 of Chapter 23 of the Revised Statutes, which section provides that it shall be turned over to the representatives of the deceased. This property should, then, be turned over to the administrator of the estate of the deceased or to his next of kin or, if a Public Administrator has been appointed, then to him.

JAMES G. FROST
Deputy Attorney General

May 7, 1953

To Herbert G. Espy, Commissioner of Education
Re: Surplus Property

This office has been asked to certify to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (formerly Federal Security Agency) that the surplus property program now operating in your department meets the standards set by the Federal Security Agency by regulation promulgated January 2, 1953 and found in the Federal Register, page 165, under date of January 8th. The regulation is too long to set out here, but the pertinent points will be discussed separately.

The statutes setting forth the duties of the Commissioner of Education and appropriating money to carry out this program are found in the Resolves of