

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 259

H. P. 204

House of Representatives, January 19, 1965

Referred to Committee on Education. Set up for concurrence and ordered printed.

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Levesque of Madawaska.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

AN ACT Adjusting the School Tax Rate in Unorganized Territory.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 20, § 1461, sub-§ 1, amended. The last sentence of the first paragraph of subsection 1 of section 1461 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

‘Said assessment shall be limited to a school tax rate of ~~10 mills on the dollar above~~ the average of school tax rates of the municipalities of the State for the preceding school year.’

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Education, Schooling of Children in Unorganized Territory, to carry out the purposes of this Act the sum of \$35,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1967; the breakdown of which shall be as follows:

Department	1966-67
EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF	
Schooling of Children in Unorganized Territory	
Personal Services	\$ —
All Other	35,000
Capital Expenditures	—
Total	<hr/> \$35,000

STATEMENT OF FACTS

At present each township in the unorganized territory is taxed the cost of educating the children in the township or the average tax rate in the State plus 10 mills, whichever is lower. Townships in the unorganized territory are either tracts of timberland owned by large companies or they are very poor communities. Townships having large tracts of timberland can bear the total cost of educating the children at a very low tax rate. Poor communities that have been forced to deorganize because they cannot afford to support public schools and other municipal services are now taxed the average tax rate of the State plus 10 mills. This is a heavy burden on the communities that cannot afford to bear it. This Act would provide relief for the poor communities without adjusting the tax in the wealthy townships.