
FORTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 115.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to increase the efficiency of the state supervision of common schools and to provide for a uniformity of text-books in the same.

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

SECTION 1. The governor and council shall appoint
2 a state superintendent of common schools, who shall be
3 duly sworn and continue in office three years or during
4 the pleasure of the executive ; and when a vacancy
5 occurs, a new appointment shall be made for a like
6 term.

SECT. 2. An office shall be provided for the state
2 superintendent at the seat of government, where he
3 shall preserve all school reports of this state and of

4 other states which may be sent to his office, the returns
5 of the superintending school committees of the various
6 towns, and such books, apparatus, maps, charts, works
7 on education, plans for school buildings, models, and
8 other articles of interest to school officers and teachers
9 as may be procured without expense to the state.

Duties of State Superintendent.

SECT. 3. The duties of the state superintendent shall
2 be as follows :

3 *First*—To exercise a general supervision of all the
4 public schools of the state, and to advise and direct the
5 town committees in the discharge of their duties, by
6 circular letters and personal conference.

7 *Second*—To obtain information as to the school sys-
8 tems of other states and countries, and the condition
9 and progress of common school education throughout
10 the world ; to disseminate this information, together
11 with such practical hints upon the conduct of schools
12 and the true theory of education as observation and
13 investigation shall convince him to be important, by
14 public addresses, circulars, and articles prepared for
15 the press ; and to do all in his power to awaken and
16 sustain an interest in education among the people of
17 the state, and to stimulate teachers to well directed
18 efforts in their work.

19 *Third*—To take such measures as he may deem
20 necessary to secure the holding of a state educational
21 convention once each year, with a view of bringing
22 together the teachers, school committees and friends of
23 education generally, for the purposes of consultation
24 with reference to the interests of common schools and
25 the most approved method of instruction.

26 *Fourth*—In case sufficient encouragement is afforded
27 by the citizens, to hold in each county once during
28 each year a public meeting or institute for teachers
29 and educators.

30 *Fifth*—To prepare and cause to be printed and dis-
31 tributed such portions of the proceedings of county and
32 state institutes or teachers' conventions as he may
33 deem important in the furtherance of the interests of
34 education.

35 *Sixth*—To prescribe the studies that shall be taught
36 in the common schools of this state, reserving to town
37 committees the right to prescribe additional studies.

38 *Seventh*—To act as superintendent of the state nor-
39 mal schools, and perform the duties imposed upon the
40 superintendent of common schools by the ninth section
41 of the act establishing normal schools.

42 *Eighth*—Annually, prior to the session of the legis-
43 lature, to make a report to the governor and council of
44 the result of his inquiries and investigations, and the

45 facts obtained from the school returns, with such sug-
46 gestions and recommendations as in his judgment will
47 best promote the improvement of common schools.

SECT. 4. The annual salary of the state superin-
2 tendent shall be eighteen hundred dollars exclusive of
3 travelling and other necessary expenses incurred in
4 the discharge of his duties, for which he shall receive
5 such sums as he may actually expend, to be approved
6 by the governor and council, not however exceeding
7 five hundred dollars, to be paid quarterly on the first
8 days of April, July, October and January.

Text-Books.

SECT. 5. The superintendent of common schools,
2 together with two other citizens of this state, to be
3 appointed by the governor and council, shall constitute
4 a text-book commission, whose duty it shall be to ex-
5 amine into the merits of the published text-books in
6 the studies pursued in our common schools, and to
7 recommend such of them as may seem best adapted to
8 the same ; or in case they find none of the published
9 books satisfactory, to make such arrangements as they
10 may think proper with authors and publishers for the
11 publication of new books, without expense to the
12 state ; previously, however, making arrangements
13 with the publishers of such text-books as they may

14 desire to recommend, to furnish such books to the
15 dealers in this state, or the superintending school com-
16 mittees, at the lowest wholesale prices ; and in case
17 the trade is unwilling to supply the schools of any
18 town with any of such text-books at such an advance
19 above the wholesale prices agreed upon as the com-
20 mission may deem reasonable, then the state superin-
21 tendent may make such arrangements as he may deem
22 proper to carry out this provision, without expense to
23 the state.

SECT. 6. When the commission shall recommend
2 any text-book or books to be used in the common
3 schools of this state, the state superintendent shall
4 notify the superintending school committees of their
5 recommendations, and of the lowest wholesale prices
6 agreed upon for such books, and of the advance above
7 those rates deemed reasonable for the retail prices ;
8 and thereafter when any change shall be made in any
9 of the text-books used in the public schools of any
10 town, those books recommended by the commission
11 shall be adopted. And no change shall be made in
12 any of the text-books recommended by them until
13 another commission, appointed by authority of the
14 legislature, shall determine upon a change.

SECT. 7. The two commissioners appointed to act
2 on the text-book commission shall each receive four

3 dollars per day with necessary expenses incurred in
4 the discharge of their duties, to be audited by the
5 governor and council, not however exceeding two hun-
6 dred dollars in full for the services and expenses of
7 each commissioner.

SECT. 8. Sections sixty-two to sections sixty-nine,
2 inclusive, of chapter eleven of the revised statutes,
3 providing for the appointment of a superintendent of
4 common schools, and all acts and parts of acts incon-
5 sistent with this act, are hereby repealed.

SECT. 9. This act shall take effect when approved
2 by the governor.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 21, 1868. }

Presented by Mr. DINGLEY of Lewiston, as a substitute to bill an act to establish the State Board of Education, and ordered to be printed.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*