
FORTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 60.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to constrain the attendance of children and youths between the ages of eight and sixteen years in the public schools of this state.

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

SECTION 1. Every person having under his control
2 a child, between the ages of eight and sixteen years,
3 shall annually, during the continuance of such control,
4 send such child to some public school in the city or
5 town in which he resides, at least twelve weeks, if the
6 public school in such city or town so long continue ;
7 six weeks of which time shall be consecutive ; and for
8 every neglect of such duty, the party offending shall
9 forfeit, to the use of such city or town, a sum not ex-
10 ceeding twenty dollars nor less than five dollars ; but

11 if it appear upon the inquiry of the truant officers, or
12 upon the trial of any prosecution under this act, that
13 such child or youth has been otherwise provided with
14 the means of education for a like period of time, or
15 has already acquired the branches of learning taught
16 in the public schools, or that his bodily health or his
17 mental condition has been such as to prevent his at-
18 tendance at school or application to study for the pe-
19 riod required, or for any other good and sufficient
20 reason, the penalty, before mentioned, shall not be
21 incurred.

SECT. 2. Any child or youth between the ages of
2 eight and sixteen years convicted of being habitual
3 truant or of not attending school, his parent or guar-
4 dian affording the necessary facilities for his attendance
5 in school, shall be punished by fine not exceeding
6 twenty dollars nor less than five dollars, or, at the dis-
7 cretion of the justice or court having jurisdiction of
8 case, instead of the fine above named he may be com-
9 mitted to the state reform school for a period not ex-
10 ceeding two years nor less than one year.

SECT. 3. Every city and town in this state shall, at
2 its annual meeting in the month of March, choose not
3 less than three truant officers who shall be charged
4 with the duty of inquiring into all cases of neglect of
5 the duty prescribed in the two preceding sections of

6 this act, and ascertain the reasons, if any, therefor ;
7 and said truant officers shall forthwith give notice of
8 all violations of the duties prescribed in the preceding
9 sections of this act with the reasons therefor to the
10 city or town treasurer ; and if such city or town trea-
11 surer wilfully neglects or refuses to prosecute any per-
12 son or persons liable to the penalty provided for in the
13 preceding sections, he shall forfeit to the use of such
14 city or town, the sum of twenty dollars.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 28, 1868.

Reported by Mr. WOODWARD, from the Committee on Education, and printed under Joint Rule.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary.*