

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

---

---

# FORTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

---

HOUSE.

No. 89.

---

---

## STATE OF MAINE.

---

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

---

---

AN ACT to promote immigration, and to facilitate the settlement of the public lands.

---

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

SECTION 1. There shall be a board of immigration  
2 in this state, composed of the governor, secretary of  
3 state, and land agent, but the members of said board  
4 shall receive no compensation for the services they  
5 may render by virtue of this act.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of said board to col-  
2 lect statistics and other useful information concerning  
3 the climate, soil, and resources of the state, and the  
4 amount of the unsettled lands, together with the terms  
5 offered by the state to settlers, and such other informa-  
6 tion as said board may deem proper, and to cause the

7 same to be printed and translated into the Scandina-  
8 vian languages, and distributed in Sweden, Norway,  
9 and such other countries as may be deemed desirable,  
10 and best calculated to promote the purposes of this  
11 act; *provided* the whole amount expended for this  
12 purpose shall not exceed the sum of five hundred  
13 dollars.

SECT. 3. Said board may appoint some suitable  
2 person as agent, to proceed to Sweden or Norway for  
3 the purpose of obtaining a first colony of immigrants,  
4 and superintending their passage to this state and their  
5 settlement on the public lands; and the salary and  
6 entire expenses of such agent shall not exceed the  
7 sum of three thousand dollars.

SECT. 4. The agent aforesaid shall be sent out for  
2 the purposes herein provided as early as practicable in  
3 the year eighteen hundred and seventy, and shall re-  
4 turn with the colony as soon thereafter as may be.

SECT. 5. The board aforesaid may cause said first  
2 colony of immigrants to be settled on any of the public  
3 lands of the state not otherwise appropriated, and  
4 assign to each head of a family and male member of  
5 the colony twenty-one years of age, one hundred acres  
6 of land, and the land agent shall, at the expiration of  
7 said five years, cause each of the persons aforesaid to  
8 whom lots have been thus assigned to receive a deed

9 of warranty, or other valid title, of the lot thus as-  
10 signed them; *provided* each of said persons has estab-  
11 lished his residence on the lot assigned him, and has  
12 built him a comfortable house thereon, and has cleared  
13 not less than fifteen acres of land, within the time  
14 aforesaid, ten of which shall be laid down to grass;  
15 and all the immigrants thus settled shall be exempt  
16 from state taxation until January first, A. D. eighteen  
17 hundred and seventy-six.

SECT. 6. The board aforesaid, may, if in their opin-  
2 ion the circumstances of said first colony of immigrants  
3 upon their arrival shall require it, cause advances to  
4 be made to them, of such provisions, tools, and im-  
5 plements, as may be necessary to enable them to com-  
6 mence labor, *provided* the whole amount thus expended  
7 shall not exceed one thousand dollars.

SECT. 7. The governor is hereby authorized to draw  
2 his warrant upon the treasurer for any of the sums  
8 specified by this act.

SECT. 8. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with  
2 this act, are hereby repealed, and this act shall take  
3 effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

---

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 26, 1870. }

Reported by Mr. STONE, from Committee on Settlement of  
Public Lands.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*