

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTIETH LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 60.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT to establish the school mill fund for support of common schools.

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

SECTION 1. A tax of one mill per dollar is hereby  
2 annually assessed upon all the property in the state  
3 according to the valuation thereof, and shall be known  
4 as the mill tax for the support of common and free  
5 high schools.

SECT. 2. This tax shall be collected in the same  
2 manner as other state taxes, and be paid into the  
3 state treasury and designated as the school mill fund.

SECT. 3. The fund thus received shall be distributed  
2 annually by the state treasurer to the several cities,  
3 towns and plantations of the state according to the  
4 average attendance of scholars in each city, town or

5 plantation, as the same shall appear from the official  
6 returns made to the office of the state superintendent of  
7 common schools for the preceding year.

SECT. 4. It shall be within the power of the legis-  
2 lature to appropriate from said funds special sums for  
3 the support of normal schools, teachers' institutes, and  
4 any purpose clearly in the interest of common schools,  
5 and the balance distributed as provided in section  
6 three.

SECT. 5. It is also provided that the superintending  
2 school committee of the several towns may appropriate  
3 from the mill school fund received, a sum not exceed-  
4 ing fifty per cent. of the same, for the purpose of  
5 supporting a free high school in each of the several  
6 towns wherein shall be taught the usual studies of an  
7 academic course, also the natural sciences.

SECT. 6. Said free high schools, wherever established  
2 or put in operation, shall be under the control and  
3 supervision of the superintending school committee of  
4 said town, whose duty it shall be to provide a school-  
5 room, apparatus, employ teachers, and make such  
6 other expenditures as may be necessary to put in  
7 operation said schools; *provided*, not more than ten  
8 per cent. of the funds, appropriated for the support of  
9 said high schools, shall be used for any other purpose  
10 than the payment of the wages and board of the

11 teachers. Said committee shall put in operation said  
12 schools, at such times and in such places as shall best  
13 accommodate the wishes and interests of the people of  
14 said towns. They shall decide the age and qualifica-  
15 tions required for the admission of scholars, and all  
16 scholars so admitted and residing in a town where a  
17 free high school is in operation, shall receive instruc-  
18 tion free. It is provided that no one term shall  
19 continue more than ten weeks.

SECT. 7. All and every portion of the school mill  
2 fund not distributed or expended during the financial  
3 year, shall, at the close of each financial year, be  
4 added to the permanent school fund.

SECT. 8. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 16, 1871: }

Reported from the Committee on Education by Mr. NORCROSS,  
and printed under the rules.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*