

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTIETH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 55.

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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 promote immigration and facilitate the settlement of the public lands.

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*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.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of said board to  
2 appoint a commissioner of immigration, an agent  
3 resident in Sweden, and an agent resident in New  
4 Sweden, Maine, and to exercise a general supervision  
5 over the expenditure of all money appropriated by this  
6 act.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of said commissioner  
2 to collect statistics and other useful information con-

cerning the climate, soil, productions and resources of  
the state, the amount and location of unsettled lands  
in Maine, the terms offered by the state to settlers,  
together with the condition and progress of the colony  
at New Sweden, and such other information as he may  
deem proper, and cause the same to be translated into  
the Swedish language and distributed in Sweden and  
the United States, in such manner as may be deemed  
desirable and best calculated to promote the provisions  
of this act, *provided* the whole amount expended for  
this purpose shall not exceed the sum of one thousand  
dollars.

SECT. 4. It shall be the further duty of said com-  
missioner to exercise a general care and oversight over  
all immigrants coming to Maine, to give them all  
needful information, to assist them in settling upon the  
public lands of the state, or obtaining employment  
within its borders, and to have special charge of the  
colony at New Sweden, to the end that its develop-  
ment and prosperity may be promoted in every way  
consistent with law ; and the compensation and entire  
expenses of said commissioner shall not exceed the  
sum of twenty-five hundred dollars.

SECT. 5. The first agent provided for in section  
second of this act shall reside in Gothenburg, Sweden ;  
shall have charge of the printing, and of the dis-

4 tribution throughout Sweden of all documents and  
5 information to be furnished him by the commissioner ;  
6 shall use his best endeavors in every lawful way to  
7 encourage emigration to Maine, to protect the emi-  
8 grants from fraud and imposition, and to enable them  
9 to embark from Sweden with proper guarantees for  
10 their safety and comfort on their passage and with  
11 suitable information to the Swedish colony of our  
12 state ; and the compensation of said agent shall not  
13 exceed the sum of five hundred dollars.

SECT. 6. The second agent provided for in section  
2 second of this act shall reside in New Sweden, shall  
3 have special charge of the state store-house, stores,  
4 tools and all other state property there, shall receive  
5 and disburse all state supplies and keep proper ac-  
6 counts and vouchers therefor ; and the compensation  
7 of said agent shall not exceed the sum of two hundred  
8 dollars.

SECT. 7. The agents mentioned in the two pre-  
2 ceding sections shall perform their duties under the  
3 direction of the commissioner of immigration.

SECT. 8. The board aforesaid may, if in their opinion  
2 the circumstances require it, expend amounts not ex-  
3 ceeding the following sums, for the several purposes  
4 hereinafter enumerated : For provisions and tools to  
5 be sold the colonists at cost, and for which payment

6 may be taken in labor, at one dollar a day, on the  
7 roads, public buildings, and other public works, five  
8 thousand dollars ; for finishing and furnishing the pub-  
9 lic building at New Sweden, one thousand dollars ;  
10 for seed, five hundred dollars ; for roads, five hundred  
11 dollars ; for schools and school books, three hundred  
12 dollars ; for all other purposes to promote the pro-  
13 visions and spirit of this act, five hundred dollars.

SECT. 9. The board aforesaid may cause all immi-  
2 grants arriving under the provisions of this act to be  
3 settled on any of the public lands of the state not  
4 otherwise appropriated, and assign to each man over  
5 twenty-one years of age by certificate from the land  
6 agent, a lot of one hundred acres of land ; and the  
7 land agent shall, at the expiration of five years from  
8 the date of said assignment, grant each of the persons  
9 aforesaid or their heirs at law, a deed of warranty or  
10 other valid title of the lot assigned him ; *provided* each  
11 of said persons has established his residence on the lot  
12 assigned him, has built him a comfortable house there-  
13 on, and has cleared not less than fifteen acres of land  
14 within the time aforesaid, ten of which shall be laid  
15 down to grass ; and all said persons shall be exempt  
16 from state taxation until January first, A. D. eighteen  
17 hundred and seventy-six.

SECT. 10. The governor is hereby authorized to

2 draw his warrant upon the treasurer for any of the  
3 sums specified in this act.

SECT. 11. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent  
2 with this act are hereby repealed, and this act shall  
3 take effect when approved.



STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 16, 1871.

Reported from the Joint Special Committee on Immigration, by  
Mr. DUDLEY, and laid over to be printed under the Joint Rule.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*