

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 13.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT to secure the education of the youth in the  
State of Maine.

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

SECTION 1. That every parent, guardian, or other  
2 person in the State of Maine having control of any  
3 child or children between the ages of eight and four-  
4 teen years inclusive, shall be required to send any  
5 such child or children to a public school for a period  
6 of at least twelve weeks in a year, at least six weeks  
7 of which shall be consecutive, unless such child or  
8 children are excused from such attendance by the  
9 school officers of the town in which such parent or  
10 guardian resides, upon its being shown to their satis-  
11 faction that the bodily or mental condition has been

12 such as to prevent the attendance at school or appli-  
13 cation to study for the period required, or that such  
14 child or children are taught at a private school or at  
15 home in such branches as are usually taught in pri-  
16 mary schools, or to have acquired the ordinary branches  
17 of learning taught in the public schools; *provided* in  
18 case a public school shall not be taught for three  
19 months in the year within one and one half miles by  
20 the nearest travelled road of the residence of any per-  
21 son within this state, he shall not be liable to the pro-  
22 visions of this act.

SECT. 2. In any case, any parent, guardian, or other  
2 person shall fail to comply with the provisions of this  
3 act, said parent, guardian, or other person, shall be  
4 liable to a fine not exceeding five dollars, for the first  
5 and each offence, to be prosecuted in any court com-  
6 petent to try the same. Said fine shall be collected  
7 by the school officers of said city, town or plantation,  
8 in the name of the same, in an action of debt or on the  
9 case, and when collected, shall be paid to the treasurer  
10 of the town in which the defendant resided when the  
11 offence was committed, and by him accounted for the  
12 same as money raised for school purposes.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of the school officers  
2 of every city, town or plantation in this state, to  
3 cause to be posted three notices of this law, in public

4 and conspicuous places in said city, town or planta-  
5 tion, or published in one newspaper in the town for  
6 three weeks during the month of March in each year,  
7 the cost of each publication to be provided for as a  
8 current expense of said municipality.

SECT. 4. It shall be the duty of the superintending  
2 school committee or town supervisor, to enforce the  
3 several provisions of this act, and such school officer  
4 or officers neglecting to prosecute the fine within ten  
5 days after a written notice has been served on him by  
6 any tax-payer in said town, unless the person so com-  
7 plained of shall be excused by the selectmen of towns  
8 or the mayor and aldermen of cities, shall be liable  
9 to a fine of not less than five nor more than twenty  
10 dollars, which fine shall be prosecuted for in the name  
11 of the treasurer of said city or town, and the fine  
12 when collected shall be paid to the treasurer, to be  
13 accounted for as in section two of this act.

SECT. 5. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, January 25, 1872.

Reported from the Committee on Education, by Mr. FARRINGTON of Oxford, and printed under the Joint Rule.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*