

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 7.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to promote the efficiency of the public schools
of Maine.

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

SECTION 1. For the purpose of promoting the efficiency of the public schools of Maine, the state is hereby divided into seven educational districts: the first, composed of the counties of York and Cumberland; the second, of the counties of Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin; the third, of the counties of Kennebec and Somerset; the fourth, of the counties of Sagadahoc, Lincoln and Knox; the fifth, of the counties of Waldo and Hancock; the sixth, of the counties of Penobscot and Piscataquis; the seventh of the counties of Washington and Aroostook.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of the governor, by
2 and with the advice and consent of the executive
3 council on the first appointment, and subsequently on
4 recommendation of the superintending school com-
5 mittees, as provided in section five, to annually appoint
6 a school commissioner for each of the districts mentioned
7 in section one, all of whom shall enter upon their
8 duties in the first instance immediately after appoint-
9 ment and qualification, and subsequently on the first
10 day of January of each year, and continue in office
11 until the last day of December of the year for
12 which they were appointed, unless removed by the
13 governor. When there shall be a failure in any dis-
14 trict to make such a recommendation, or when any
15 recommendation shall seem to the governor to be
16 unwise, the appointment shall be made as provided in
17 the first instance.

SECT. 3. Each of said commissioners shall receive
2 an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars, payable
3 quarterly in the same manner as other state officers,
4 and their traveling expenses not exceeding five hun-
5 dred dollars each, except in the sixth district, where
6 such expenses shall not exceed six hundred dollars,
7 and the seventh district, where they shall not exceed
8 seven hundred dollars, bills for which shall be audited
9 by the governor and council.

SECT. 4. The state superintendent of schools and
2 the district commissioners shall constitute a state board
3 of education, of which the state superintendent shall
4 be *ex-officio* secretary. The board shall hold a session
5 at the capital commencing the second Tuesday of Jan-
6 uary of each year, for the purpose of consultation, to
7 mature plans of operation for the year and to devise
8 ways and means to promote the welfare and elevate
9 the standard of the public schools of the state. The
10 board may be convened by the state superintendent at
11 such other time or place as he may deem expedient,
12 for consultation with reference to the interests in their
13 charge.

SECT. 5. In the month of September, October or
2 November of each year, at a time and place to be
3 designated by the commissioner, due notice of which
4 shall be given, there shall be held in each district a
5 convention consisting of the supervisor or a member
6 of each superintending school committee of the towns
7 within the district, to be designated for that purpose
8 by the committee. Such convention shall elect a
9 president, secretary and other necessary officers and
10 adopt such rules as may best subserve the objects of
11 the meeting. The state superintendent of schools and
12 district commissioner shall be present at such conven-
13 tion and participate in such discussions as may be had

14 respecting the organization and supervision of schools,
15 the appointment and certification of teachers and other
16 points affecting the interests of education, and make
17 such suggestions with reference to these ends as they
18 may think proper. The last day of the session such
19 convention shall by a majority vote by ballot, recom-
20 mend some person for commissioner of schools for said
21 district, and the secretary shall forward to the gov-
22 ernor a certificate of such nomination, signed by
23 himself, and the president of the convention. Super-
24 visors of schools or members of superintending school
25 committees attending such annual district conventions
26 in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall
27 receive from their several towns their reasonable trav-
28 eling expenses, bills for which shall be audited by the
29 municipal officers.

SECT. 6. The duties and powers of each of the
2 district commissioners provided by this act, shall be as
3 follows:

4 *First*—He shall visit every town in his district at
5 least once each year, and devote as much time as
6 practicable in consultation with school committees and
7 supervisors, with reference to the condition and wants,
8 and the best means of elevating the character and
9 extending the influence of the public schools under
10 their charge, and by personal conference and public

11 addresses endeavor to increase the interest of the
12 people in education.

13 *Second*—He shall visit as many of the schools in each
14 town as practicable, for the purpose of making himself
15 acquainted with the methods of instruction and disci-
16 pline.

17 *Third*—For the purpose of improving methods of
18 instruction, he may arrange for a meeting of the
19 teachers of each town for one day, at which he shall
20 give such advice and make such suggestions as may
21 seem to him best adapted to the wants of the schools
22 of that particular community.

23 *Fourth*—He shall encourage the formation of educa-
24 tional associations and association of school committees,
25 and attend their meetings as often as practicable.

26 *Fifth*—He shall assist the state superintendent in the
27 organization and management of county institutes, and
28 shall distribute promptly all reports, forms, laws, cir-
29 culars and instructions, which he may receive from
30 and in accordance with the direction of the state su-
31 perintendent, and in general he shall act as the official
32 agent of said superintendent, and as advisor and con-
33 stant assistant of the school officers and teachers
34 within his section.

35 *Sixth*—He shall examine the school accounts of
36 the several towns, shall ascertain actual amounts of

37 moneys received by each town from the state treasury
38 annually and actual amounts of the same expended
39 by each town for school purposes. He may also ex-
40 amine the accounts of the several town school agents
41 and note the amounts received and expended by them,
42 with the vouchers therefor. For the above purposes
43 he shall be allowed ready access to any books or records
44 the same as any town officer or common citizen.

45 *Seventh*—Annually on or prior to December first he
46 shall make an annual report to the state superintend-
47 ent of common schools containing a general statement
48 of work done, towns and schools visited, institutes
49 held, associations organized, number of lectures given,
50 list of certificates awarded and a correct fiscal state-
51 ment of all moneys received from the state treasury
52 by the several towns within his jurisdiction and the
53 expenditures of the same, meaning by this to ascertain
54 whether the towns have rightly used the school moneys
55 received from the state.

SECT. 7. The state superintendent in connection with
2 such of the district commissioners as he may designate
3 for that purpose, shall hold annually a teachers' insti-
4 tute in each county, with a view of aiding teachers in
5 qualifying themselves for a more successful discharge of
6 their duties. An examination of teachers shall be
7 held the closing day or days of the session, and certifi-

8 cates of scholarship and qualifications shall be granted
9 by the examining committee of such form and grade
10 as may be deemed best by the state superintendent.

SECT. 8. Sections eighty-one and eighty-two of
2 chapter eleven of the revised statutes, are hereby
3 repealed.

SECT. 9. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 18, 1873. }

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

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*