

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 12.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT to secure the education of 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 seven and four-  
4 teen years, shall be required to send such child or  
5 children to a public school for a period of at least  
6 twelve weeks in each year, unless such child or  
7 children are excused from such attendance by the  
8 school officers of the town in which such parent or  
9 guardian resides, upon its being shown to their satis-  
10 faction that the mental or bodily condition of such  
11 child or children has been such as to prevent attend-

12 ance at school or application to study for the period  
13 required, or that such child or children are taught at  
14 a private school or at home, in such branches as are  
15 usually taught in primary schools, or to have acquired  
16 the ordinary branches of learning taught in the public  
17 schools; *provided*, in case a public school shall not be  
18 taught for three months in the year within one and one  
19 half miles by the shortest travelled road of the resi-  
20 dence of such delinquent, he shall not be liable to the  
21 provisions of this act.

SECT. 2. In case any parent, guardian, or other  
2 person having such control, shall fail to comply with  
3 section one of this act, said parent, guardian, or other  
4 person shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five  
5 dollars and costs of prosecution for such offence, to be  
6 prosecuted in any court competent to try the same,  
7 and the magistrate or court to which said fine shall be  
8 paid shall pay the same to the treasurer of the town  
9 in which the offence was committed, and shall be by  
10 him accounted for the same as money raised for school  
11 purposes.

SECT. 3. Every boy in this state between the ages  
2 of seven and fourteen years, who shall neglect or  
3 refuse to attend school as required in section one of  
4 this act, unless excused by the school officers of the

5 city, town or plantation in which he resides, on being  
6 convicted of such offence, shall pay a fine not exceed-  
7 ing five dollars, or be sentenced to the reform school,  
8 in the discretion of the court or magistrate before  
9 whom the offence is tried.

SECT. 4. 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. 5. It shall be the duty of the school com-  
2 mittee or town supervisor to enforce the several  
3 provisions of this act.

SECT. 6. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
January 27, 1873. }

Reported from the Committee on Education, by Mr. LORD, and  
ordered printed.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*