

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 4.

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## MEMORIAL.

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To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in  
Legislature assembled :

Whereas, The present State law for certificating teachers for public schools fails in its operation to protect these schools from those who are unqualified both by age and scholarly attainments to teach, does not reject in many cases those whose personal habits and peculiarities plainly unfit them to govern and instruct the young, and renders possible an undue pressure of personal, local and family influences in licensing and hiring teachers, to the detriment of the schools and the misuse of the public moneys, and

Whereas, Under the present system, notwithstanding the increased appropriations for public education for several years, it has been shown to be impossible to secure any corresponding advance in the qualifications of teachers and in the use of better methods of instruction and management in our common schools, because of the inexperience in examining, changing nature and irresponsibility of township examining committees, and

Whereas, Such township committees are, as they freely admit in many cases, unqualified for the duty of examining, and would in general gladly remit it to those more competent for it, and

Whereas, A wise economy of the public money, the interests of our children and the future intelligence and prosperity

of the commonwealth demand a more rigid exclusion in future of incompetent and unqualified teachers from our schools,

Therefore, We the undersigned, duly and unanimously appointed by the State Educational Association recently held at Brunswick, as a Committee to petition you, do respectfully and earnestly ask for the enactment of a law providing for a County Board of Examiners for teachers, in each county, with such powers and restrictions as shall remedy so far as possible the present great defect of the educational work of the State.

A. W. BURR,

Principal of Hallowell Classical Academy.

W. J. CORTHELL,

Ex-State Superintendent of Schools, and Principal  
of Gorham Normal School.

THOMAS TASH,

Superintendent of Schools for the city of Portland.

B. P. SNOW,

Pastor of Church, and Chairman of School Com-  
mittee in Alfred.

W. O. FLETCHER,

Principal of the High School in Biddeford.

HENRY L. CHAPMAN,

Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature in  
Bowdoin College, and Chairman School Com.

JANUARY 4, 1879.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, January 20, 1879.

Presented by Mr. FERGUSON of York, and on his motion  
*Ordered*, That it lie on the table and be printed.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary*.