

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 78.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHTY.

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AN ACT to amend chapter one hundred twenty-four of the public laws of eighteen hundred and seventy-three, entitled "an act in aid of Free High Schools."

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

SECTION 1. Section one of chapter one hundred  
2 twenty-four of the public laws of eighteen hundred  
3 seventy-three, entitled "an act in aid of free high  
4 schools," as amended by chapter thirty-three of  
5 the public laws of eighteen hundred seventy-five,  
6 is hereby further amended by substituting for the  
7 words "five hundred" in the sixth line thereof, the  
8 words "two hundred and fifty," so that said sec-  
9 tion as amended shall read as follows:

10 *Sect. 1.* When any town shall have established  
11 and maintained a free high school as provided by

12 this act, for at least ten weeks in any one year,  
13 such town on complying with the conditions here-  
14 in set forth, shall be entitled to receive from the  
15 state one-half the amount actually expended for  
16 instruction in said school, not however exceeding  
17 two hundred and fifty dollars from the state to any  
18 one town; *provided*, that no town shall be entitled to  
19 such state aid unless the appropriation and expendi-  
20 ture for such school on the part of said town, has  
21 been exclusive of the amounts required by law to  
22 be expended for common school purposes. Such  
23 state aid shall be paid from the state treasury on  
24 and after the first day of December of each year,  
25 upon certification by the governor and council as  
26 provided by item eight. But whenever a town or  
27 district shall desire to draw its state aid semi-  
28 annually, such state aid shall be paid from the  
29 state treasury on and after the first day of June  
30 and the first day of December, of each year; *pro-*  
31 *vided*, that the superintending school committee of  
32 such town shall make, semi-annually, before the  
33 first day of June and first day of December, such  
34 report as is required in section eight.

SECT. 2. Section four of the same act is hereby  
2 amended by inserting before the word "academic"  
3 in the second line, the word "English;" and by

4 inserting after the word "agriculture" in the fourth  
5 line, the words "but the ancient or modern lan-  
6 guages shall not be taught in said schools except  
7 wholly at the expense of the city, town, district or  
8 union of districts maintaining such school or  
9 schools," so that said section as amended shall  
10 read as follows:

11 *Sect. 4.* The course of study in the free high  
12 school contemplated by this act, shall embrace  
13 the ordinary English academic studies, especially  
14 the natural sciences in their application to me-  
15 chanics, manufactures and agriculture; but the  
16 ancient or modern languages shall not be taught  
17 in said schools except wholly at the expense of the  
18 city, town, district or union of districts maintain-  
19 ing such school or schools. Such school or  
20 schools, when established by any town or union of  
21 towns shall be free to all the youth in such town  
22 or towns, on such attainments of scholarship as  
23 shall be fixed by the superintending school com-  
24 mittee or committees having the supervision of  
25 said school or schools. When such school is  
26 established by any school district or union of  
27 school districts, it shall be free in the same man-  
28 ner to the scholars within such district or dis-  
29 tricts; and also open to scholars passing the re-

30 quired examination from without such district or  
31 districts; but within the town or towns in which  
32 said district or districts are situated, on the pay-  
33 ment to the agent of the district in which such  
34 school is located, of such tuition, to be fixed by the  
35 superintending school committee or committees  
36 having the supervision of the same, as shall be  
37 equivalent to the cost per scholar of maintaining  
38 such school after deducting the aid extended by  
39 the state. Whenever in the judgment of the  
40 superintending school committee or committees  
41 having the supervision of any free high school or  
42 schools, the number of pupils in the same may be  
43 increased without detriment, scholars from without  
44 the town or towns, directly interested in such  
45 school or schools, may be admitted to the same on  
46 passing the required examination and paying such  
47 tuition as may be fixed by such committee, to the  
48 treasurer of the town in which the school is kept,  
49 when the school is maintained by a town or union  
50 of towns, or to the agent of the district in which  
51 the school is kept, when such school is maintained  
52 by a district or union of districts.

SECT. 3. Section eight of the same act is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following provi-  
3 sion: "Any person or persons connected with the

4 management of such free high schools, either as  
5 teachers, school agent, school committee or super-  
6 visor, who shall in any way aid or abet in defraud-  
7 ing the state into the payment in support of said  
8 schools, of more than is contemplated by the spirit  
9 and tenor of this act, shall be punished by a fine of  
10 not less than five hundred dollars, or by impris-  
11 onment in the county jail for not less than one  
12 year," so that said section as amended shall read  
13 as follows:

14 *Sect. 8.* The superintending school committee  
15 or committees having the supervision of any free  
16 high school or schools, shall annually before the  
17 first day of December, make returns under oath to  
18 the superintendent of common schools, on blanks  
19 prepared and sent out by him, of the amount  
20 appropriated and also the amount expended by  
21 each town or school district for instruction in  
22 such free high school or schools during the  
23 current year; also of the amount appropriated  
24 and the amount expended for common school  
25 purposes by each town or school district main-  
26 taining such free high school or schools; the  
27 number of weeks which such school or schools  
28 have been taught; the wages paid each teach-  
29 er; the number of pupils registered; the aver-

30 age attendance; the number of pupils in each  
31 branch of study pursued, and the amount received  
32 for tuition. If the superintendent of common  
33 schools shall be satisfied that the provisions of this  
34 act have been complied with, he shall certify to the  
35 governor and council the sum which each town or  
36 district is entitled to receive from the state under  
37 this act. If any town or district is dissatisfied  
38 with the decision of the superintendent of common  
39 schools, such town or district may appeal to the  
40 governor and council. The governor and council  
41 shall issue a certificate to the treasurer of the  
42 town, or agent of the district, for such amount as  
43 they may adjudge such town or district is entitled  
44 to receive from the state treasury. Any person or  
45 persons connected with the management of such  
46 free high schools, either as teacher, school agent,  
47 school committee or supervisor, who shall in any  
48 way aid or abet in defrauding the state into the  
49 payment in support of said schools, of more than  
50 is contemplated by the spirit and tenor of this act,  
51 shall be punished by a fine of not less than five  
52 hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county  
53 jail for not less than one year.

SECT. 4. All acts inconsistent with this bill are  
2 hereby repealed.

# STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 26, 1880. }

Reported by Mr. SPRINGER from Minority Committee on Education, and ordered printed on his motion.

ORAMANDAL SMITH, *Clerk.*