

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty - Third Legislature.

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HOUSE.

No. 60.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT to compel Children under fifteen years of  
age to attend the Public Schools.

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

SECTION 1. Every person having under his con-  
2 trol a child, between the ages of eight and fifteen  
3 years, shall annually cause such child to attend, for  
4 at least sixteen weeks, some public school, which  
5 time shall be divided, so far as the arrangement of  
6 school terms will allow, into two terms each of  
7 eight consecutive weeks, and for every neglect of  
8 such duty, the person offending shall forfeit a sum  
9 not exceeding twenty-five dollars to the treasurer

10 of the city or town for the use of the public schools  
11 in such city or town; but if such child has been  
12 otherwise furnished for a like period of time with  
13 the means of education, equal to that taught in the  
14 common schools of the State, or if his physical or  
15 mental condition is such as to prevent attendance  
16 at school or application to study, such penalty shall  
17 not be incurred.

SECT. 2. Children living remote from any public  
2 school in the town in which they reside may be  
3 allowed to attend the public schools in an adjoining  
4 town under such regulations and on such terms as  
5 the school committees of said towns agree upon  
6 and prescribe, and the school committee of the  
7 town in which such children reside shall pay the  
8 sum agreed upon out of the appropriations of money  
9 raised in said town for school purposes.

SECT. 3. Cities and towns shall annually elect  
2 one or more persons, to be designated truant offi-  
3 cers, who shall inquire into all cases of neglect of  
4 the duty prescribed in section one, and ascertain  
5 the reasons therefor, and such truant officers or any  
6 one of them, shall, when so directed by the school  
7 committee or supervisor, in writing prosecute in the  
8 name of the city or town any person liable to the  
9 penalty provided in said section.

SECT. 4. Every city or town neglecting to elect  
2 truant officers, and truant officers neglecting to  
3 prosecute when directed, as required by law, shall  
4 forfeit not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars  
5 to the use of the public schools in the city or town  
6 neglecting as aforesaid, or to the use of the public  
7 schools in city or town where such truant officer  
8 resides.

SECT. 5. The municipal officers shall fix the  
2 compensation of the truant officers elected as pre-  
3 scribed in section three.

SECT. 6. Every boy between the ages of ten and  
2 fifteen years who refuses to attend school as re-  
3 quired in section one and who may be found  
4 wandering about the streets or public places of any  
5 city or town during the school hours of the school  
6 day, while the school of which he is legally a  
7 scholar is in session, on complaint of the truant  
8 officers as provided in section three shall be com-  
9 mitted to the State Reform School; *provided, how-*  
10 *ever,* that it shall be the duty of every truant offi-  
11 cer previous to making complaint under this section  
12 to notify the truant or absentee from school, also  
13 the person having him under control, of the offence  
14 committed and the penalty therefor, and if the  
15 truant officer can obtain satisfactory pledges that

16 the child will conform to section one of this act, he  
17 shall forbear to prosecute so long as such pledges  
18 are faithfully kept.

SECT. 7. Police or municipal courts and trial  
2 justices shall have jurisdiction of the offences  
3 described in sections one, three, four and six.

SECT. 8. Sections twenty-four to twenty-seven  
2 inclusive of chapter eleven of the Revised Statutes  
3 are hereby repealed.

SECT. 9. This act shall take effect when ap-  
2 proved.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 2, 1887. }

Reported from Committee on Education by Mr. RYDER of Springfield;  
ordered printed under joint rule.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, *Clerk.*