

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty - Third Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 113.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to establish a State Board of Education,
and providing for State Uniformity of School Text-
books, to be furnished to scholars at cost prices.

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

SECTION 1. A state board of Education is here-
2 by established, consisting of four members, who
3 shall be appointed by the Governor, with the ad-
4 vice and consent of the Council. And the State
5 Superintendent of Common Schools shall be *ex-*
6 *officio* a member of the board, and its secretary.
7 The terms of office of the first four appointed as

8 aforesaid, shall be so arranged that the term of one
9 shall expire on the twenty-fifth day of January of
10 each year, for four years, and each vacancy so cre-
11 ated shall be filled for the term of four years. Va-
12 cancies occurring otherwise shall be filled by the
13 appointment of a new member, for the unexpired
14 term, by the Governor, with the advice and con-
15 sent of the Council. The members of the board
16 shall be sworn.

SECT. 2. The state board of education shall have
2 power, and it shall be their duty to direct the gen-
3 eral course of instruction, and to select a uniform
4 system of text-books to be used in the common
5 schools of the State, due notice of which selection
6 shall be given. And text-books thus selected, and
7 introduced as hereinafter provided, shall not be
8 changed for five years thereafter. And when the
9 board of education has made a selection of text-
10 books, they may contract with the publishers, for
11 the purchase and delivery thereof to towns as
12 hereinafter provided. Or, in case satisfactory
13 terms cannot be made with publishers then the
14 board may contract with authors, compilers, own-
15 ers of copyrights, or those in any way engaged in
16 the preparation of books, and cause to be pub-
17 lished, or compiled and published, a supply of text-

18 books for the common schools of the State, to be
19 delivered to towns as hereinafter provided. The
20 price of each book shall be printed on its title
21 page, and any person or persons charging more for
22 a school text-book than the price printed thereon
23 shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one hun-
24 dred dollars, to be recovered in an action of debt,
25 one-half of the fine to go for the use of the
26 schools in the town where the offender resides, and
27 one-half to the prosecutor.

SECT. 3. The superintending school committee
2 or supervisor of each town, on being notified by
3 the state board of education, that a selection of
4 books has been made and are ready for delivery,
5 shall within three months from the date of such
6 notification, purchase at the expense of such town,
7 a supply of said books for the use of the schools
8 therein, and introduce them, the pupils paying
9 therefor, according to the conditions of the con-
10 tract made by said state board of education.
11 Towns shall keep a supply of school books suffi-
12 cient for the requirements of the schools therein,
13 and shall provide a place or places of sale for the
14 same at the expense of the town.

SECT. 4. The change from the books now in use,
2 to those selected by the state board of education,

3 shall not be an immediate one, but shall be made
4 gradually, at such times, and in such order as the
5 board shall deem expedient. *Provided*, that not
6 more than two branches of study shall be changed
7 in any one year.

SECT. 5. The board shall meet annually at the
2 State capitol, in the month of April, and at such
3 other times as may be necessary. A majority of
4 the board shall constitute a quorum for the tran-
5 saction of business. At said annual meeting they
6 shall elect one of their number to be president,
7 and may adopt rules and by-laws subject to the
8 provisions of this act.

SECT. 6. The secretary shall perform the duties
2 prescribed by this act or required by the board;
3 he shall keep a record of the transactions of the
4 board; shall have the custody of all books, papers,
5 documents, and other property belonging to the
6 board which may be deposited in his office; shall
7 keep and file all correspondence appertaining to
8 the business of the board; he shall annually report
9 to the Governor and Council, the transactions of
10 the board, in connection with his report as State
11 Superintendent of Common Schools.

SECT. 8. The board of education shall fix the
2 compensation of the secretary, and of such clerical

3 labor as its secretary may require in the discharge
4 of his duties, and certify the same to the Governor
5 and Council. The other members of the board
6 shall receive three dollars per diem for services
7 actually performed in the discharge of their duties,
8 and they shall also be reimbursed for expenses
9 necessarily incurred, which amounts shall be cer-
10 tified by the secretary, and rendered to, and subject
11 to the approval of the Governor and Council.

SECT. 8. The sum of fifteen hundred dollars per
2 annum, or as much thereof as may be necessary,
3 is hereby appropriated, to pay the salary of the
4 secretary and meet the contingent expenses of his
5 office, and to pay the compensation and expenses
6 of the board, which shall not exceed the sum men-
7 tioned.

SECT. 9. Towns which have provided, or shall
2 hereafter provide school books for the use of pupils
3 in their public schools, at the expense of said
4 towns, as provided in section eight, chapter eleven
5 of the Revised Statutes, shall be exempt from the
6 provisions of this act.

SECT. 10. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent
2 with this act are hereby repealed.

SECT. 11. This act shall take effect when ap-
2 proved.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 12, 1887. }

Reported from Committee on Education by Mr. BISHOP of Hermon;
ordered printed under joint rule.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, *Clerk.*