

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty - Third Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 20.

*

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to Abolish School Districts.

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

SECTION 1. All school districts in all towns in
2 this State are hereby abolished.

SECT. 2. Immediately after this act shall have
2 become a law, towns shall take possession of all
3 school-houses, lands, apparatus and other property
4 owned and used by school districts for school pur-
5 poses, which districts may lawfully sell and convey.
6 The property so taken shall forthwith be appraised
7 by the assessors of the towns, and at the first an-

8 nual assessment thereafter, a tax shall be levied
9 upon the whole town equal to one-third of said
10 appraisal, and there shall be remitted to the tax
11 payers of each district one-third of the appraised
12 value of its property so taken; and at the second
13 and third subsequent annual assessments, like taxes
14 shall be assessed and remitted. In case of districts
15 comprising parts of two or more towns, the assess-
16 ors of said towns shall jointly appraise the school
17 property belonging to said districts, and shall de-
18 termine the part thereof belonging to each of the said
19 towns, and each town shall remit to the tax payers
20 in its part of such district, the part so determined,
21 in the same manner as in case of districts wholly
22 within said town.

SECT. 3. This act shall not abolish, or change
2 the location of any school legally established at
3 the time of its passage; but any town at its an-
4 nual meeting or a meeting called for the purpose,
5 may determine the number and location of its
6 schools, and may discontinue them or change their
7 location, but such discontinuance or change of lo-
8 cation shall be made only on the written recom-
9 mendation of the superintending school committee,
10 and on conditions proper to preserve the just
11 rights and privileges of the inhabitants for whose

12 benefit such schools were established. *Provided,*
13 *however,* that, in case of any school having as now
14 established, or which shall hereafter have, too few
15 scholars for its profitable maintenance, the superin-
16 tending school committee may suspend the opera-
17 tion of such school for not more than one year,
18 unless otherwise instructed by the town, and may
19 provide for the scholars belonging thereto in other
20 schools, for which purpose they may, if in their
21 judgment necessary, procure the conveyance of
22 said scholars to such other schools and pay for the
23 same from the school moneys of the town.

SECT. 4. The corporate powers of every school
2 district shall continue under this act, so far as the
3 same may be necessary for the meeting of its
4 liabilities and the enforcing of its rights; and any
5 property held in trust by any school district, by
6 virtue of a gift, devise or bequest for the benefit of
7 said district, shall continue to be held and used
8 according to the terms thereof.

SECT. 5. The school moneys of every town shall
2 be so expended as to give, as nearly as practicable,
3 the same aggregate annual length of terms in all
4 its schools; and every town shall make provision
5 for the maintenance of all its schools for not less
6 than twenty school weeks annually. Any town

7 failing to maintain its schools as provided in this
8 section, shall be thereby debarred from drawing its
9 State school moneys till it shall have made suitable
10 provision for so maintaining them thereafter.

SECT. 6. All laws and parts of laws inconsistent,
2 herewith, are hereby repealed.

SECT. 7. This act shall take effect on the first
2 day of April, 1887.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 3, 1887.

Reported by Mr. COLE, from Committee on Education, and laid on
table to be printed under joint rules.

C. W. TILDEN, Secretary.