

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty-Fourth Legislature.

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HOUSE.

No. 137.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT to amend sections one, three and four of chapter  
twenty-two of the public laws of eighteen hundred and  
eighty-seven, relating to 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 twenty-two of the  
2 public laws of eighteen hundred eighty-seven is hereby  
3 amended by inserting after the word "weeks," in the  
4 sixth line, the words 'which terms shall be the first two  
5 terms of the school year,' and by striking out all after the  
6 word "town," in the ninth line, and substituting therefor  
7 the following, 'provided, however, that any such child  
8 may attend a private school for a like period of time,  
9 whose trustees or managers shall have submitted to the  
10 superintending school committee satisfactory evidence  
11 that the instruction in said school is equivalent in scope  
12 and character to that of the public school which said

13 child would be required to attend ; and provided, further,  
14 that any child may be excused from such attendance upon  
15 school, whose physical or mental condition is such as to  
16 prevent attendance or application to study,' so that said  
17 section, as amended shall read as follows :

‘SECT. 1. Every person having under his control a  
19 child between the ages of eight and fifteen years, shall  
20 annually cause such child to attend, for at least sixteen  
21 weeks, some public school, which time shall be divided,  
22 so far as the arrangement of school terms will allow, into  
23 two terms, each of eight consecutive weeks, which terms  
24 shall be the first terms of the school year ; and for every  
25 neglect of such duty, the person offending shall forfeit a  
26 sum not exceeding twenty-five dollars, to the treasurer of  
27 the city or town, for the use of the public schools in such  
28 city or town ; provided, however, that any such child  
29 may attend a private school for a like period of time,  
30 whose trustees or managers shall have submitted to the  
31 superintending school committee satisfactory evidence  
32 that the instruction in said school is equivalent in scope  
33 and character to that of the public school which said child  
34 would be required to attend ; and provided further, that  
35 any child may be excused from such attendance upon  
36 school, whose physical or mental condition is such as to  
37 prevent attendance, or application to study.’

SECT. 2. Section three of said chapter is hereby  
2 amended by inserting the word ‘three’ instead of “one,”  
3 in the first line, and by inserting after the word “there-  
4 for,” in the fourth line, ‘and shall promptly report the  
5 same to the superintending school committee,’ and by  
6 adding to said section the following : ‘and said officers

7 shall have power, and it shall be their duty when notified  
8 by any teacher, that any pupil is irregular in attendance,  
9 to arrest and take to school such pupils as are irregular  
10 in attendance, and it shall be the duty of such officers to  
11 enforce the provisions of this act and of sections one  
12 hundred and thirteen to one hundred and sixteen, inclu-  
13 sive, of chapter eleven of the Revised Statutes, so that  
14 said section shall read as follows :

‘SECT. 3. Cities and towns shall annually elect three or  
16 more persons, to be designated truant officers, who shall  
17 inquire into all cases of neglect of the duty prescribed in  
18 section one, and ascertain the reasons therefor, and shall  
19 promptly report the same to the superintending school  
20 committee, and such truant officers, or any one of them,  
21 shall, when so directed by the school committee or super-  
22 visor in writing, prosecute in the name of the city or  
23 town, any person liable to the penalty provided in said  
24 section ; and said officers shall have power and it shall be  
25 their duty, when notified by any teacher, that any pupil  
26 is irregular in attendance, to arrest and take to school  
27 such pupils as are irregular in attendance ; and further it  
28 shall be the duty of such officers to enforce the provisions  
29 of this act and of sections one hundred thirteen to one  
30 hundred sixteen inclusive, of chapter eleven of the Re-  
31 vised Statutes.

SECT. 3. Section four of said chapter is hereby amended  
2 by inserting after “officers” in the second line the words,  
3 ‘shall be debarred from drawing State school money, so  
4 long as such neglect continues ;’ and by striking out in the  
5 fourth and fifth lines, the words “to the use of the public

6 schools in the city or town neglecting as aforesaid," so  
7 that said section as amended shall read as follows :

'SECT. 4. Every city or town neglecting to elect truant  
9 officers shall be debarred from drawing State school  
10 money so long as such neglect continues, and truant officers  
11 neglecting to prosecute when directed, as required by law,  
12 shall forfeit not less than ten, nor more than fifty dollars,  
13 to the use of the public schools in the city or town where  
14 such truant officer resides.'

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## STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 12, 1889. }

Reported from Committee on Education by Mr. COLE of Brooklin;  
ordered printed under joint rule.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, *Clerk.*