

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

---

---

# Sixty-Fourth Legislature.

---

---

SENATE.

No. 47.

---

---

## STATE OF MAINE.

---

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

---

### 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 this State  
2 are hereby abolished; *provided, however, that* districts  
3 organized under special acts of the legislature may retain  
4 their present organization.

SECT. 2. Immediately after this act shall have become  
2 a law, towns shall take possession of all school-houses,  
3 lands, apparatus, and other property owned and used by  
4 school districts for school purposes, which districts may  
5 lawfully sell and convey. The property so taken shall  
6 forthwith be appraised by the assessors of the towns,  
7 and at the first annual assessment thereafter, a tax shall  
8 be levied upon the whole town equal to one-third of said  
9 appraisal, and there shall be remitted to the tax-payers  
10 of each district one-third of the appraised value of its

11 property so taken ; and at the second and third subse-  
12 quent annual assessments like taxes shall be assessed and  
13 remitted. In case of districts comprising parts of two  
14 or more towns, the assessors of said towns shall jointly  
15 appraise the school property belonging to said districts,  
16 and shall determine the part thereof belonging to each of  
17 the said towns, and each town shall remit to the tax-  
18 payers in its part of such district the part so determined,  
19 in the same manner as in case of districts wholly within  
20 said town.

SECT. 3. This act shall not abolish or change the loca-  
2 tion of any school legally established at the time of its  
3 passage ; but any town at its annual meeting, or at a  
4 meeting called for the purpose, may determine the num-  
5 ber and location of its schools, and may discontinue them  
6 or change their location, but such discontinuance or  
7 change of location shall be made only on the written  
8 recommendation of the superintending school committee,  
9 and on conditions proper to preserve the just rights and  
10 privileges of the inhabitants for whose benefit such schools  
11 were established. *Provided, however,* that in case of any  
12 school having, as now established, or which shall here-  
13 after have, too few scholars for its profitable maintenance,  
14 the superintending school committee may suspend the  
15 operation of such school for not more than one year, un-  
16 less otherwise instructed by the town, and may provide  
17 for the scholars belonging thereto in other schools, for  
18 which purpose they may, if in their judgment necessary,  
19 procure the conveyance of said scholars to such other  
20 schools, and pay for the same from the school moneys of  
21 the town.

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

SECT. 5. The school moneys of every town shall be so  
2 expended as to give as nearly as practicable the same  
3 aggregate annual length of terms in all its schools, and  
4 every town shall make provision for the maintenance of  
5 all its schools for not less than twenty weeks annually.  
6 Any town failing to maintain its schools as provided in  
7 this section, shall be thereby debarred from drawing its  
8 State school moneys, till it shall have made suitable pro-  
9 vision for so maintaining them thereafter.

SECT. 6. The inhabitants of a part of any union dis-  
2 trict abolished by this act or which has been abolished by  
3 a vote of either town in which such union district was  
4 situated, upon a majority vote of the inhabitants of such  
5 part at a meeting called for that purpose as provided by  
6 sections one, two and four of chapter twelve Revised  
7 Statutes, so far as the same may be applicable, shall be  
8 entitled to such an equitable part of the school money of  
9 said town as would give the inhabitants of said part equal  
10 educational advantages with the remainder of the town  
11 and in addition thereto, they may raise by taxation such  
12 sum of money as said inhabitants deem expedient for  
13 better support of schools and shall expend the same in the  
14 manner said inhabitants shall determine by vote.

On the receipt of a certificate from the secretary of the meeting of the vote to raise money as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the municipal officers of such town to assess and collect such sum in the manner provided for the assessment and collection of town taxes and to carry out the provisions of this section.

SECT. 7. The duties heretofore devolving upon superintending school committees and school agents shall hereafter be performed by a superintending school committee of three persons in each town, to be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting of the town, and to hold office for three years; provided, however, in towns not now having such committee, that at the first election under this act one member of said committee shall be chosen for three years, one for two years and one for one year, and thereafter one shall be chosen each year. Said committee shall have power to fill vacancies occurring during the interim between annual meetings, and shall annually elect one of its members supervisor of schools, who shall be ex officio secretary of the committee, and shall examine the schools and inquire into the regulations and discipline thereof and the proficiency of the scholars, for which purposes he shall visit each school at least twice each term, and shall make all reports and returns relating to the schools of the town which are now required by law to be made by superintending school committees.

SECT. 8. All laws and parts of laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECT. 9. This act shall take effect on the first day of April, 1889.

STATE OF MAINE.

---

IN SENATE, January 31, 1889.

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

C. W. TILDEN, *Secretary.*