

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Sixth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 173.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED
AND NINETY-THREE.

AN ACT to amend Sections one, three and four of Chapter
twenty-two of the Public Laws of eighteen hundred
eighty-seven, relating to Schools.

*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
6 the word "town" in the ninth line, and substituting there-
7 for the following, *provided, however*, that any such child
8 may be excused from attending a public school as afore-
9 said by attending a private school for a like period of

10 time, whose trustees or managers shall have submitted to
11 the superintending school committee satisfactory evidence
12 that the instruction in said school is equivalent in scope
13 and character to that of the public school which said child
14 would be required to attend ; and provided, further, that
15 any child may be excused from such attendance upon
16 school, whose physical condition is such as to prevent
17 attendance or application to study,' so that said section,
18 as amended, shall read as follows :

‘Section 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
27 of the city or town, for the use of the public schools in
28 such city or town ; *provided, however,* that any such
29 child may be excused from attending a public school as
30 aforesaid by attending a private school for a like period
31 of time, whose trustees or managers shall have submitted
32 to the superintending school committee satisfactory evi-
33 dence that the instruction in said school is equivalent in
34 scope and character to that of the public school which
35 said child would be required to attend ; and provided
36 further, that any child may be excused from such attend-

20 ance upon school, whose physical condition is such as to
21 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 fore" 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 such pupil to school when found truant ;
10 and it shall be the duty of such officers to enforce the
11 provisions of one hundred and fourteen to one hundred
12 and sixteen, inclusive, of chapter eleven of the Revised
13 Statutes,' so that said section shall read as follows :

'Section 3. Cities and towns shall annually elect three or
15 more persons, to be designated truant officers, who shall
16 inquire into all cases of neglect of the duty prescribed in
17 section one and ascertain the reasons therefor, and shall
18 promptly report the same to the superintending school
19 committee, and such truant officers, or any one of them,
20 shall, when so directed by the school committee or super-
21 visor in writing, prosecute in the name of the city or
22 town, any person liable to the penalty provided in said
23 section ; and said officers shall have power, and it shall
24 be their duty, when notified by any teacher, that any
25 pupil is irregular in attendance, to arrest and take such
26 pupil to school when found truant ; and further it shall

27 be the duty of such officers to enforce the provisions
 28 of sections one hundred fourteen to one hundred sixteen
 29 inclusive, of chapter eleven of the Revised Statutes.'

SECT. 3. Section four of said chapter is hereby
 2 amended by inserting after "officers," in the second line,
 3 the words, 'shall be debarred from drawing State school
 4 money, so long as such neglect continues;' and by strik-
 5 ing out, in the fourth and fifth lines, the words "to the
 6 use of the public schools in the city or town neglecting
 7 as aforesaid," so that said section, as amended, shall read
 8 as follows :

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

SECT. 4. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent here-
 2 with are hereby repealed.

SECT. 5. This act shall take effect when signed by the
 2 governor.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,)
 February 22, 1893.)

Reported by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN of Bristol, from Committee on
 Education, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*