

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Sixth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 308.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to amend Chapter 55 of the Revised Statutes,
relating to free Public Libraries.

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

Section 9 of chapter 55 of the Revised Statutes is amended
by striking out all of said section and inserting the following :

SECTION. 1. Any town may establish a free public
2 library therein, for the use of its inhabitants, and provide
3 suitable rooms therefor, under such regulation for its gov-
4 ernment as the inhabitants from time to time prescribe ;
5 and may appropriate, for the foundation and commence-
6 ment of such library, a sum not exceeding two dollars, and
7 for its maintenance and increase annually, a sum not
8 exceeding one dollar, for each of its ratable polls in the
9 year next preceding.

SECT. 2. The municipal officers in any town or city
2 where a free public library is established shall annually,
3 on the first day of May, certify to the State treasurer the
4 amount of money appropriated and expended by said
5 town or city during the preceding year for the purchase
6 of books and documents for the use and benefit of such
7 free public library; and the State treasurer thereupon
8 shall pay to said town from the State treasury for the
9 purchase of books for the use of such library a sum equal
10 to ten per cent of the amount so expended by said town
11 as certified by its municipal officers.

SECT. 3. Any town or city, in which there is a library
2 owned or controlled by a corporation or association, may
3 appropriate a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars
4 yearly, to procure from such library the free use of its
5 books for all the inhabitants of the town or city, under
6 such restrictions and regulations as shall insure the safety
7 and good usage of the books, and such library may then
8 be considered a free public library, and said town or city
9 shall be entitled to the benefits of the preceding section,
10 provided that any books and documents purchased with
11 said State stipend, and all books and documents donated
12 by the State, shall be and remain the property of said
13 municipality.

SECT. 4. In every town and city where a free public
2 library exists, the State librarian shall transmit to such
3 library all laws, Maine Reports, and other documents
4 which the town or city is by law entitled to receive from

5 the State, and the same shall be constantly kept in such
6 library for the use and benefit of all the citizens ; and the
7 municipal officers of said town or city shall transfer to
8 said library all the laws, Maine Reports and other docu-
9 ments heretofore received from the State, and now in cus-
10 tody of any of the officers of said town or city ; and the offi-
11 cers of said library, on or before the first day of April of
12 each year, shall send to the State librarian, a report con-
13 taining a list of all books and documents purchased with
14 the State stipend for the preceding year, and of all books
15 and documents received from the State in said library.

SECT. 5. The State librarian is hereby authorized and di-
2 rected to donate from the Maine State library to any town of
3 less than fifteen hundred inhabitants, and having no free
4 public library owned and controlled by the town, books
5 purchased for that purpose not exceeding fifty per cent. in
6 value the books and documents purchased by said town
7 for the purpose of founding a free public library therein ;
8 said donation in no case to exceed one hundred dollars.

SECT. 6. No town shall be entitled to the benefits of
2 this provision, until its legal voters, at a regularly called
3 town meeting, have raised and appropriated not less than
4 one hundred dollars for the purchase of books, and have
5 provided for the care, custody and distribution of its own
6 books, and of those to be donated by the State.

SECT. 7. The librarian or trustees of any free public
2 library may ask the governor and council for advice in re-
3 gard to the selection of books, and may receive instruc-

4

HOUSE—No. 308.

tion at the State library in cataloguing, and any other mat-
ters pertaining to the maintenance or administration of the
library.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 9, 1893. }

Reported by Mr. OAKES of South Berwick, from Committee on
Library, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*