

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty-Sixth Legislature.

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SENATE.

No. 35.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT to abolish School Districts and to provide for more  
efficient supervision of Public Schools.

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

SECTION 1. The school districts in all towns in this  
2 State are hereby abolished. Provided, however, that  
3 school districts organized with special powers by act of  
4 the legislature, may retain such organization; but said  
5 districts shall annually, on or before the first day of June,  
6 by their agents, trustees or directors, submit to the  
7 school committees of their several towns estimates of  
8 the amounts required for the maintenance of the schools  
9 therein, other than free high schools, for the ensuing  
10 school year, and shall be entitled to such portion of the  
11 common school funds of the town as said committees  
12 shall determine, which sum shall not be less than is nec-

13 essary for maintenance of their schools for a period equal  
14 to that of the other schools of the town.

SECT. 2. Immediately after this act shall have become  
2 a law, town shall take possession of all school houses,  
3 lands, apparatus and other property owned and used by  
4 the school districts hereby abolished, which districts may  
5 lawfully sell and convey. The property so taken shall  
6 forthwith be appraised by the assessors of said towns,  
7 and at the first annual assessment thereafter a tax shall be  
8 levied upon the whole town, or such part thereof as is  
9 included within the districts abolished, equal to the whole  
10 of said appraisal, and there shall be remitted to the tax-  
11 payers of each of said districts, the said appraised value  
12 of its property so taken. In case of districts comprising  
13 parts of two or more towns, the assessors of said towns  
14 shall jointly appraise the school property belonging to  
15 said districts, and shall determine the part thereof belong-  
16 ing to each of the said towns, and each town shall remit to  
17 the tax-payers in its part of such district the part so  
18 determined, in the same manner as in case of districts  
19 wholly within 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 anual meeting, or at a meet-  
4 ing called for the purpose, may determine the number  
5 and location of its schools, and may discontinue them or  
6 change their location ; but such discontinuance or change  
7 of location shall be made only on the written recom-  
8 mendation of the superintending school committee, and  
9 on conditions proper to preserve the just rights and priv-  
10 ileges of the inhabitants for whose benefit such schools

11 were established: provided, however, that in case of  
12 any school having, as now established, or which shall  
13 hereafter have, too few scholars for its profitable mainte-  
14 nance, the superintending school committee may suspend  
15 the operation of such school for not more than one year,  
16 unless otherwise instructed by the town, and may pro-  
17 vide for the scholars belonging thereto in other schools,  
18 for which purpose they may, if in their judgment neces-  
19 sary, procure the conveyance of said scholars to such  
20 other schools, and pay for the same from the school  
21 moneys of the town.

SECT. 4. The corporate powers of every school dis-  
2 trict shall continue under this act so far as the same may  
3 be necessary for the meeting of its liabilities and the  
4 enforcing of its rights; and any property held in trust by  
5 any school district by virtue of a gift, devise or bequest  
6 for the benefit of said district, shall continue to be held  
7 and 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 an-  
3 nual length of terms in all its schools, and every town  
4 shall make provision for the maintenance of all its schools  
5 for not less than twenty weeks annually. Any town fail-  
6 ing to maintain its schools as provided in this section, shall  
7 be debarred from drawing its State school moneys till it  
8 shall have made suitable provision for so maintaining them  
9 thereafter.

SECT. 6. Adjoining towns, upon the written recom-  
2 dation of the school committee of said towns, may by  
3 concurrent action maintain union schools for the benefit  
4 of parts of said towns in what are now union school dis-

5 tricts, or may establish such schools, and shall contribute  
6 to their support each in proportion to the number of  
7 scholars in each of said towns attending such schools.  
8 Said schools shall be under the management of the school  
9 committee of the town in which their school houses are  
10 located.

SECT. 7. The inhabitants of any section of a town  
2 which fails or neglects to provide for the maintenance of  
3 free high schools may organize a free high school precinct  
4 in the manner hereinafter provided, which shall have all  
5 the rights conferred upon school districts in the provisions  
6 of law relating to free high schools; on petition of any  
7 five voters resident in said section, reciting the limits of  
8 the precinct proposed, the municipal officers of the town  
9 shall call a meeting of the voters within said limits by  
10 causing notices, specifying the time, place and purposes  
11 of said meeting, seven days before the time appointed, to  
12 be posted in two or more conspicuous places within said  
13 limits. Said meeting shall choose a moderator and a  
14 clerk who shall be sworn, and shall, by a majority vote  
15 of those present and voting, determine whether said pre-  
16 cinct shall be organized. It shall choose an agent who  
17 shall be duly sworn, whose powers and duties shall be the  
18 same as those of district agents as defined in the law  
19 relating to free high schools. Such precinct may continue  
20 its organization from year to year by the holding of meet-  
21 ings called in the manner aforesaid, so long as the town  
22 shall neglect or refuse to support free high schools.  
23 Sections of adjoining towns may organize as herein pro-  
24 vided, and unite in the support of such schools. But no  
25 more than two such precincts shall exist at the same time

26 in any town. Moneys voted by said precincts shall be  
27 assessed and collected in the manner now provided for  
28 assessment and collection of moneys voted by school  
29 districts.

SECT. 8. The management of the schools and the  
2 custody and care of all school property in every town,  
3 shall devolve upon a superintending school committee con-  
4 sisting of three, five or seven members in each town, as the  
5 town may elect, who shall be chosen by ballot at the annual  
6 meeting of the town, and shall hold office for three years ;  
7 *provided, however,* that in towns not having such com-  
8 mittees when this act becomes a law, the committees  
9 then chosen, at their first meeting shall designate by lot  
10 a member or members to hold office for one, two and  
11 three years respectively, in manner as follows, to wit : if  
12 consisting of three, one for one year, one for two years  
13 and one for three years ; if consisting of five, one for one  
14 year, two for two years, and two for three years ; if con-  
15 sisting of seven, two for one year, two for two years,  
16 and three for three years, and they shall certify such  
17 designation to the town clerk, to be by him recorded.  
18 Said committee shall have power to fill vacancies occurring  
19 during the interim between annual meetings, and shall  
20 annually elect one of its members superi- or of schools,  
21 who shall be ex-officio secretary of the committee, shall make  
22 the annual enumeration of scholars required by law, and shall  
23 examine the schools and inquire into the regulations and  
24 discipline thereof and the proficiency of the scholars, for  
25 which purpose he shall visit each school at least twice  
26 each term. He shall make all reports and returns relat-  
27 ing to the schools of the town which are now or may be

28 required by law to be made by superintending school  
29 committees, and perform such other duties as said com-  
30 mittee shall direct. Provided further, that in case the  
31 town so authorize, in lieu of the supervisor herein pro-  
32 vided for, a superintendent may be elected who may or  
33 may not be a member of the committee.

Said committee shall serve without pay, but the super-  
35 visor, or superintendent by them elected, shall receive  
36 for his services such sum as the town shall annually vote  
37 therefor, which sum shall in no case be less than two  
38 dollars per day for every day of actual service.

SECT. 9. All laws and parts of laws inconsistent here-  
2 with, except Private and Special Laws authorizing towns  
3 and cities to choose school committees other than those  
4 herein provided for, are hereby repealed.

SECT. 10. This act shall take effect on the first day of  
2 March, eighteen hundred and ninety-four.





STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 9, 1893.

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

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.