

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 256.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to establish a State Board of Education.

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

SECTION 1. A state board of education is hereby estab-
2 lished which shall consist of the governor, president of the
3 senate, state superintendent of schools, all ex officio, and
4 five persons appointed by the governor with the advice
5 and consent of the council to hold office as follows: one
6 for five years, one for four years, one for three years, one
7 for two years, and one for one year, and thereafter all
8 appointments shall be for the term of five years, one to
9 retire each year in the order of appointment and the gov-
10 ernor with the advice and consent of council shall fill all
11 vacancies in the board. Said board shall serve without
12 pay, but all necessary traveling expenses shall be paid.

SECT. 2. Said board shall exercise a general supervision
2 of all the public schools and advise and direct town com-
3 mittees, supervisors and superintendents of schools in the
4 discharge of their duties by circular letters and personal
5 conference. They shall obtain information as to the school
6 systems of other states and countries, and the condition
7 and progress of common school education throughout the
8 world ; they shall disseminate such information, together
9 with such practical hints upon the conduct of schools and
10 the true theory of education as observation and investiga-
11 tion shall convince them to be important, by public
12 addresses, circulars, reports and articles prepared for the
13 press. They shall do all in their power to awaken and
14 sustain an interest in education among the people, and
15 stimulate teachers to well directed efforts in their work.
16 The state superintendent of schools shall be secretary of
17 said board, and they may prescribe such duties for him in
18 addition to those now required by law as they shall deem
19 proper.

SECT. 3. Said board may appoint not more than two
2 suitable agents to visit the several cities and towns in the
3 state for the purpose of inquiring into the condition of
4 schools, of conferring with teachers and committees, of
5 superintending examinations of teachers, holding teachers'
6 meetings, giving lectures upon educational subjects, and
7 otherwise laboring to increase the efficiency of the public
8 schools under the direction of the board ; for which service
9 they shall be paid annually in quarterly payments upon
10 bills approved by the governor and council and state
11 superintendent, a sum not exceeding fifteen hundred dol-
12 lars and all necessary and proper traveling expenses.

SECT. 4. Said board shall meet quarterly, or upon call
2 of the chairman or secretary.

SECT. 5. The sum of five thousand dollars shall be
2 annually appropriated and set aside by the state treasurer
3 from any of the moneys by law available from the state
4 treasury for the support of public schools to pay the salary
5 and expenses of the agents of said board, the expenses of
6 the members thereof incurred in the discharge of their
7 official duties, and the incidental expenses of said board.

SECT. 6. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 20, 1895.

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

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.