

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty-Eighth Legislature.

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SENATE.

No. 115.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT to amend section 4 of chapter 58 of the Revised Statutes as amended by section 2 chapter 18 of the Public Laws of 1891 and to amend section 5 of chapter 58 of Revised Statutes as amended by chapter 125 of the Public Laws of 1887 relating to the Board of Agriculture.

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

Section 1. Amend section 4 of chapter 58 of the Revised Statutes as amended by section 2 chapter 18 of the Public Laws of 1891 by inserting after the word "husbandry" in the fourth line the words 'and to the best methods of building and maintaining public ways.' Also amend by inserting after the word "efforts" in the ninth line the words 'it shall also be the duty of the board by means of maps, charts, cuts, drawings, printed or written articles,

9 lectures or otherwise to disseminate knowledge throughout  
10 the state concerning the best known methods for the build-  
11 ing and maintaining of highways including bridges and  
12 sidewalks in the cities and towns of the state and particu-  
13 larly to impart such information, in manner as aforesaid,  
14 to the county commissioners of counties, the street com-  
15 missioners of cities, the selectmen of towns and other  
16 municipal officers whose duty it may be to have the care  
17 and management of the expenditures of money and the  
18 building and keeping in repair of the highways of the  
19 state. Also amend by inserting after the word “thousand”  
20 in the last line the words ‘five hundred’ so that said section  
21 as amended shall read as follows :

‘Sect. 4. The board, by its secretary and one of its  
23 members, shall hold annually, two farmer’s institutes in  
24 each county, and as many more as it deems expedient or  
25 finds practicable with the means at its disposal, for the  
26 public discussion of topics relating to husbandry and to  
27 the best methods of building and maintaining public ways,  
28 either independently or in connection with any organiza-  
29 tion devoted to the same general object, and it may issue  
30 bulletins, employ experts, lecturers, a reporter or other  
31 aids to enhance the usefulness of said institutes to the  
32 public ; and shall so far as practicable aid and encourage  
33 agricultural societies and associations in their efforts. It  
34 shall also be the duty of the board by means of maps,  
35 charts, cuts, drawings, printed or written articles, lectures  
36 or otherwise to disseminate knowledge throughout the  
37 state concerning the best known methods for the building  
38 and maintaining of highways, including bridges and side-  
39 walks, in the cities and towns of the state and particularly

40 to impart such information, in manner as aforesaid, to the  
41 county commissioners of counties, the street commissioners  
42 of cities, the selectmen of towns and other municipal  
43 officers whose duty it may be to have the care and man-  
44 agement of the expenditures of money and the building  
45 and keeping in repair of the highways of the state.

The members shall receive no compensation for time and  
47 services, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in  
48 the discharge of their duties, two dollars a day for sub-  
49 sistence and six cents a mile for travel. The whole  
50 expenses under this section shall not exceed three thousand  
51 five hundred dollars annually.'

Sect. 2. Amend section 5 of chapter 58 of the Revised  
2 Statutes as amended by chapter 125 of the Public Laws  
3 of 1887, by inserting after the word "State" in the ninth  
4 line the words 'He shall compile statistics relating to the  
5 public ways in the cities and towns of the state and make  
6 such investigation relating thereto as he shall deem  
7 expedient in order to secure better and more improved  
8 highways in the state, and in his annual report shall make  
9 such statements bearing upon the construction or mainte-  
10 nance of ways and suggestions and recommendations con-  
11 cerning the same as he deems appropriate, including  
12 recommendations for any legislation which to him seems  
13 expedient or necessary. County commissioners, municip-  
14 al officers and all other officers having the care and  
15 authority over public ways and bridges throughout the  
16 state, shall on request furnish said secretary any informa-  
17 tion which they possess,' so that said section as amended  
18 shall read as follows:

‘Sect. 5. The board shall appoint a secretary, as its  
20 chief executive officer for a term of three years and until  
21 his successor is appointed, and may prescribe his duties,  
22 a part of which shall be by personal observation, investi-  
23 gation, and correspondence, to acquaint himself with the  
24 methods and wants of practical husbandry, the means of  
25 fertilization, and the adaptation of various products to  
26 the soils and climate of Maine ; also with the progress of  
27 scientific and practical agriculture elsewhere, with a view  
28 to the more complete development of the natural  
29 resources of the state. He shall compile statistics relat-  
30 ing to the public ways in the cities and towns of the state,  
31 and make such investigation relating thereto as he shall  
32 deem expedient in order to secure better and more  
33 improved highways in the state, and in his annual report  
34 shall make such statements bearing upon the construction  
35 or maintenance of ways and suggestions and recommenda-  
36 tions concerning the same as he deems appropriate,  
37 including recommendations for any legislation which to  
38 him seems expedient or necessary.

County commissioners, municipal officers and all other  
40 officers having the care and authority over public ways  
41 and bridges throughout the state shall, on request, furnish  
42 said secretary any information which they possess. He  
43 shall, annually, by the third Wednesday in January, pre-  
44 sent to the governor and council, a report of the doings  
45 of the board, and the results of his own labors and investi-  
46 gations, together with useful communications, suggestions  
47 and recommendations. Twelve thousand copies of said  
48 report shall be printed, all bound in cloth, one-half of  
49 such for the legislature, and the remainder, after reserving

50 a suitable number for foreign exchanges, for distribution,  
51 under the direction of the board, among the agricultural  
52 associations and the people of the state.'



STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 26, 1897.

Presented by Mr. ROBERTS of Oxford, and on his motion laid on table to be printed, pending reference to committee.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary.*