

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Seventy-first Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 178

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THREE.

AN ACT to amend chapter 89 of the Public Laws of 1899 amendatory of chapter 116 of the Public Laws of 1895 as amended by chapter 286 of the Public Laws of 1897 and chapter 206 of the Public Laws of 1901, entitled "An Act to provide for the Schooling of Children in Unorganized Townships."

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

Section 1. Chapter eighty-nine of the Public Laws of 2 eighteen hundred and ninety-nine as amended by chapter two 3 hundred and six of the Public Laws of nineteen hundred and 4 one, is hereby further amended in section 1 by substituting 5 for the words "twenty-five cents" in the last provision thereof, 6 the words 'forty cents,' so that said section as amended shall 7 read as follows:

‘Sect. 1. Whenever in any unorganized township in this State there shall be two or more children between the ages of four and twenty-one years, the State superintendent of schools shall cause an enumeration of said children to be made, and returned to him, and shall provide for the schooling of said children, either by establishing a school in the township or by sending the children to schools in adjoining towns or plantations, or both, as shall by him be deemed expedient. In case any of said children are, by the State superintendent, sent to schools in adjoining towns or plantations, said children so sent shall have the same rights in such school as children resident in said town or plantation. Provided, however, that in case the interest on the reserve fund in any unorganized township together with the amount arising from the per capita tax called for in this act, is not sufficient to provide schooling for the children of said township for at least twenty weeks in a year, the remainder of the expense shall be paid from the fund appropriated by section four of this act, provided, further, that no money shall be expended under this section for the benefit of any township until the inhabitants of said township shall pay to the State treasurer a sum equal to forty cents for each inhabitant thereof.’

Sect. 2. Section 3 of said act as amended is hereby further amended by inserting before the last provision thereof beginning with the words “the State superintendent shall have power to supply school books, etc.,” the following: ‘Said agents, in the collecting of the per capita tax aforesaid, shall have the same powers and may use the same methods as collectors of taxes in towns are authorized to exercise and use for the collecting of personal and poll taxes committed to them; said agents are further authorized to act as truant officers in their several townships, and may, in their discretion, compel the regular daily attendance at school of every child in their township between the ages of seven and fifteen

13 years by arresting and taking to school any such child when
14 absent therefrom; and any parent or guardian of any such
15 child or children, wilfully refusing to allow said children
16 under his control to attend school, or opposing said agent in
17 arresting and taking said children to school, may be prose-
18 cuted by said agent in the name of the State before the nearest
19 trial justice, and, if found guilty, shall forfeit a sum not
20 exceeding twenty dollars for the use of the schools in the
21 township wherein said children are resident, or shall be
22 imprisoned for not exceeding thirty days;’ so that said section
23 as amended shall read:

‘Sect. 3. The State superintendent of schools shall have
25 power to appoint agents for the several townships in which
26 schools shall be established under this act, whose duty it shall
27 be under the direction of the State superintendent to enumer-
28 ate the pupils, assess and collect the per capita tax, employ
29 the teacher and attend to all necessary details in connection
30 with said schools; for which work he shall be paid a sum not
31 exceeding two dollars per day when actually employed in this
32 duty and actual necessary traveling expenses. Said agents
33 in the collection of the per capita tax aforesaid, shall have the
34 same powers and may use the same methods as collectors of
35 taxes in towns are authorized to exercise and use for the
36 collecting of personal and poll taxes committed to them; said
37 agents are further authorized to act as truant officers in their
38 several townships, and may in their discretion compel the
39 regular daily attendance at school of every child in their
40 townships between the ages of seven and fifteen years by
41 arresting and taking to school any such child when absent
42 therefrom; and any parent or guardian of any such child or
43 children, wilfully refusing to allow said children under his
44 control to attend school, or opposing said agent in arresting
45 and taking said children to school, may be prosecuted by said
46 agent in the name of the State before the nearest trial justice,

47 and if found guilty, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding twenty
48 dollars for the use of the schools in the township wherein said
49 children are resident, or shall be imprisoned for not exceed-
50 ing thirty days. The State superintendent shall have power
51 to supply school books for the schools established under this
52 act under such conditions as to the purchase and care thereof
53 as he may deem proper.'

Sect. 3. Section 4 of said act as amended is hereby further
2 amended to read as follows:

'Sect 4. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of
4 this act, there is hereby appropriated the sum of five thousand
5 dollars annually which sum shall be deducted and set aside
6 therefor by the treasurer of State from the annual school
7 funds of the State.'

Sect. 4. This act shall take effect on approval by the
2 governor.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 6, 1903.

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

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.