

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE.

No. 466

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT to amend sections ninety-four, ninety-six and ninety-seven of chapter fifteen of the Revised Statutes of nineteen hundred and three providing for the schooling of children in unorganized townships.

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*Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:*

Section 1. Section ninety-four of chapter fifteen of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended by striking out the word "twenty" in line fourteen of said section and inserting in place thereof the word 'twenty-six' and by striking out all words after the word "township" in line seventeen of said section and inserting in place thereof the words 'shall have been assessed by the duly appointed agent therefor the sum of forty cents for each of said inhabitants resident therein on the first day of April, and said agent shall have made return

10 of such assessment to the State superintendent of public  
11 schools,' so that said section shall read as follows :

'Section 94. Whenever in any unorganized township in  
13 the State there shall be two or more children between the  
14 ages of five and twenty-one years, the State superintendent  
15 of public schools shall cause an enumeration of said children  
16 to be made and returned to him, and shall provide for the  
17 schooling of said children, either by establishing a school in  
18 the township, or by sending the children to schools in ad-  
19 joining towns or plantations, or both, as shall by him be  
20 deemed expedient. In case any of said children are, by the  
21 State superintendent, sent to schools in adjoining towns or  
22 plantations, said children so sent shall have the same rights  
23 in such schools as children resident in said town or planta-  
24 tion. Provided, however, that in case the interest on the  
25 reserved fund in any unorganized township together with the  
26 amount arising from the per capita tax called for in this sec-  
27 tion, is not sufficient to provide schooling for the children of  
28 said township for at least twenty-six weeks in a year the re-  
29 mainder of the expense shall be paid from the fund appro-  
30 priated by section ninety-seven. Provided, further, that no  
31 money shall be expended under this section for the benefit of  
32 any township until the inhabitants of said township shall  
33 have been assessed by the duly appointed agent therefor the  
34 sum of forty cents for each of said inhabitants resident  
35 therein on the first day of April, and said agent shall have

36 made return of such assessment to the State superintendent  
37 of public schools.

Sect. 2. Section ninety-six is hereby amended in line four-  
2 teen thereof by substituting for the word "fifteenth" the  
3 word 'seventeenth' so that said section as amended shall read  
4 as follows:

'Section 96. The State superintendent of public schools  
6 may appoint agents for the several townships in which  
7 schools shall be established under section ninety-four, who  
8 shall, under the direction of the State superintendent, enu-  
9 merate the pupils, assess and collect the per capita tax, em-  
10 ploy the teacher and attend to all necessary details in con-  
11 nection with said schools; for which work they shall be paid  
12 a sum not exceeding two dollars a day, when actually em-  
13 ployed in this duty, and actual necessary traveling expenses.  
14 Said agents in the collection of the per capita tax aforesaid,  
15 shall have the same powers and may use the same methods  
16 as collectors of taxes in towns are authorized to exercise and  
17 use for the collecting of personal and poll taxes committed  
18 to them; said agents may act as truant officers in their sev-  
19 eral townships, and may in their discretion compel the regu-  
20 lar daily attendance at school of every child in their town-  
21 ships between the seventh and seventeenth anniversaries of  
22 his birth by arresting and taking to school any child  
23 when absent therefrom, and any parent or guardian of any  
24 such child or children, wilfully refusing to allow said chil-

25 dren under his control to attend school, or opposing said  
26 agent in arresting and taking said children to school, may be  
27 prosecuted by said agent in the name of the State before the  
28 nearest trial justice, and if found guilty shall forfeit a sum  
29 not exceeding twenty dollars for the use of the schools in the  
30 township wherein said children are resident, or shall be im-  
31 prisoned for not exceeding thirty days. The State superin-  
32 tendant may supply school books for the schools established  
33 under said section under such conditions as to the purchase  
34 and care thereof as he may deem proper.

Sect. 3. Section ninety-seven as amended by chapter forty-  
2 five of the Public Laws of nineteen hundred and five is  
3 hereby further amended by striking out the word "seven" in  
4 line two as amended and substituting in place thereof the  
5 word 'fifteen' so that said section when amended shall read  
6 as follows:

'Section 97. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions  
8 of the three preceding sections, there is hereby appropriated  
9 the sum of fifteen thousand dollars annually, which sum shall  
10 be deducted and set aside therefor by the treasurer of State  
11 from the annual school funds of the State.

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STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Augusta, March 5, 1909.

Reported by Mr. HIGGINS from Committee on Education  
and ordered printed under joint rules.

E. M. THOMPSON, *Clerk.*