

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE.

No. 96

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE, In favor of Bridgewater Classical Academy.

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*Resolved:* That there be and hereby is appropriated the  
2 sum of five hundred dollars to be paid to the trustees of  
3 Bridgewater Classical Academy situated in the town of  
4 Bridgewater, County of Aroostook.

RESOLVE: In favor of Bridgewater Classical Academy.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Bridgewater Classical Academy was incorporated by Special Act of the legislature, reference being had to Chapter 248, of the Private and Special Laws of 1907, for a full statement of the act of incorporation.

Under the powers granted by this Special Act, the trustees of Bridgewater Classical Academy perfected a legal organization soon after the adjournment of the legislature in 1907. Prior thereto a free high school had been maintained by the town of Bridgewater. The building in which this free high school had been maintained was occupied by the new academy so that the free high school merged into its successor, the Bridgewater Classical Academy. The pupils of the free high school became the pupils of the Classical Academy, their number, however, having been considerably augmented. The course of study of the new Academy was approved and all the legal requirements complied with whereby the new Academy would be entitled to State aid under the general academy law. One of the provisions of that law, however, found in R. S. Chapter 15, Section 80, is that "No academy shall receive State aid under Section 76 unless the average attendance of said academy for the year preceding shall exceed thirty students and no academy shall receive to exceed \$500 unless the average attendance of said academy for the year preceding shall exceed 60 students."

The new academy had in its history no "year preceding" as a basis upon which to compute the amount of its State aid as required by the statutes. As a matter of fact also its predecessor the Bridgewater free high school in the previous year fell a little short of the average attendance of thirty students, although at times there were more than thirty in actual attendance. This average attendance was much affected by certain local conditions which existed at that time.

In view of all the circumstances in the case, in view of the spirit of the statute, in view of the policy of the State to assist worthy educational institutions and not to withhold aid on account of technicalities and by reason of the needs of the institution to make good a deficit, this appropriation is asked for.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE,

February 1, 1909.

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

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.