

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 440

In Senate, Mar. 7, 1913.

*Reported by Senator Walker from Committee on Education,
and ordered printed under joint rules.*

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to amend section fifty-one of chapter fifteen of the
Revised Statutes, as amended, relating to the election of
truant officers.

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

Section 1. Section fifty-one of chapter fifteen of the Re-
vised Statutes as amended by chapter forty-eight of the
Public Laws of nineteen hundred five, as amended by chap-
ter two hundred thirty-eight of the Public Laws of nineteen
hundred nine, as amended by chapter one hundred thirteen
of the Public Laws of nineteen hundred eleven, is hereby
further amended by striking out the words "cities and
towns" in the first line and inserting in place thereof the

9 words 'the superintending school committee of every city
10 and town' and by striking out the word "the" in the fifth
11 line and inserting in place thereof the word 'said' and by
12 striking out the words "city or town" in the ninth line and
13 inserting in place thereof the word 'state' and by inserting
14 after the word "report" in the twenty-third line the words
15 'in writing' and by inserting after the word "report" in the
16 twenty-sixth line the words 'in writing' and by striking out
17 all of said section after the word "statutes" in the thirty-
18 fourth line thereof and substituting in place thereof the fol-
19 lowing: 'Superintending school committees shall elect
20 truant officers at their first meeting after the annual meet-
21 ing of the town; they shall fill any vacancies occurring dur-
22 ing the year and they shall have authority to fix the com-
23 pensation of said officers and said compensation shall be
24 paid from the appropriation made for salaries of municipal
25 officers. Any truant officer neglecting any duty required of
26 him under the provisions of this chapter shall be liable to
27 a fine of not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars and
28 any town failing through its superintending school com-
29 mittee to meet said provisions shall be liable to the provi-
30 sions of section sixteen of this chapter' so that said section
31 when amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 51. The superintending school committee of every
33 city and town shall annually elect one or more persons, to
34 be designated truant officers, who shall inquire into all cases
35 of neglect of the duties prescribed in section forty-nine and

36 ascertain the reasons therefor and shall promptly report
37 the same to said superintending school committee, and such
38 truant officers or any of them shall, when so directed by the
39 school committee or superintendent in writing, prosecute
40 in the name of the state any person neglecting to perform
41 the duties prescribed in said section, by promptly entering
42 a complaint before a magistrate; and said officer shall,
43 when notified by any teacher that any pupil is irregular in
44 attendance, arrest and take such pupil to school when found
45 truant; and further such officers shall enforce the provi-
46 sions of sections one hundred eighteen to one hundred
47 twenty, inclusive, of this chapter. Truant officers, when
48 so directed in writing by the superintendent of schools or
49 the superintending school committee of their respective
50 towns may visit the manufacturing, mechanical, mercantile
51 and other business establishments in their several cities and
52 towns during the hours in which the public schools of such
53 city or town are in session, and ascertain whether any
54 minors under the age of fifteen years are employed therein,
55 and shall report in writing any cases of such employment
56 to the superintendent of schools or the superintending
57 school committee of their city or towns and if employed
58 therein contrary to the provisions of chapter forty, shall
59 also report in writing such illegal employment to the com-
60 missioner of labor. The owner, superintendent, overseer
61 or agent of all manufacturing, mechanical, mercantile or
62 other business establishments, upon request, shall produce

63 for the inspection of such truant officers all certified copies
64 of records of birth and baptism, passports and age and
65 schooling certificates required to be kept on file in such
66 establishments under chapter forty of the Revised Statutes.
67 Superintending school committees shall elect truant officers
68 at their first meeting after the annual meeting of the town ;
69 they shall fill any vacancies occurring during the year and
70 they shall have authority to fix the compensation of said
71 officers and said compensation shall be paid from the ap-
72 propriation made for the salaries of municipal officers.
73 Any truant officer neglecting any duty required of him
74 under the provisions of this chapter shall be liable to a fine
75 of not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars and any
76 town failing through its superintending school committee
77 to meet said provisions shall be liable to the provisions of
78 section sixteen of this chapter.'