

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 321

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*House of Representatives, Feb. 16, 1917.*

*Referred to Committee on Education and two thousand copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.*

*W. R. ROIX, Clerk.*

*Presented by Mr. Washburn of Perry.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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AN ACT to Provide for the Distribution of State School Funds  
Available for the Support of Common Schools.

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

Section 1. In this act the word "town" shall include the  
2 cities, towns and plantations in which common schools are  
3 established and controlled by the several municipalities; the  
4 expression "aggregate attendance" shall be understood to  
5 be the sum total of the number of days attendance for any  
6 one school year of each regularly enrolled pupil of a com-  
7 mon school; the words "common school fund" shall be

8 understood to be the sum total of one-half the tax on sav-  
9 ings banks as provided by law, one-half the tax on trust  
10 and banking companies as provided by law, the amount of  
11 the interest on permanent school fund at six per cent as  
12 provided by law, together with all moneys received by the  
13 treasurer of state under sections one hundred fifty-five, one  
14 hundred fifty-six, one hundred fifty-nine and one hundred  
15 sixty of chapter sixteen of the Revised Statutes.

Sect. 2. The common school fund not otherwise appro-  
2 priated by law shall be distributed by the treasurer of state  
3 to the towns on the first day of December nineteen hundred  
4 eighteen, and annually thereafter, according to the aggre-  
5 gate attendance of scholars in each town as the same shall  
6 appear from the official returns made to the state superin-  
7 tendent of public schools for the preceding school year as  
8 provided for by section sixty-one of chapter sixteen of the  
9 Revised Statutes. Said return shall include such facts in  
10 regard to attendance and days when schools are in session  
11 as the state superintendent of public schools shall determine  
12 and may be required to be attested by the teachers in charge  
13 of the schools.

Sect. 3. The aggregate attendance of scholars in a town  
2 shall be determined by the state superintendent of public  
3 schools by adding the total number of days each pupil was  
4 in actual attendance, provided that attendance of each reg-  
5 ularly enrolled pupil shall be counted for each school holi-  
6 day, for each day of the school year when there was no ses-

7 sion of school because of the absence of the teacher in at-  
8 tendance on teachers' meetings as provided by law, for not  
9 more than one day in each term when there was no session  
10 of school because of the absence of the teacher in visiting  
11 other schools when so authorized by the superintending  
12 school committee, and for each day of the school year, not  
13 to exceed a total of fifteen school days in any one school  
14 year, when there was no session of school by order of the  
15 proper authorities because of the prevalence of an epidemic  
16 or because of the unfitness of the schoolbuilding from the  
17 effects of fire or other unpreventable cause, provided such  
18 loss of sessions is not afterward made up. For all schools  
19 lawfully established and maintained there shall be reckoned  
20 a minimum of aggregate attendance of fifteen hundred days.  
21 The attendance of pupils in union schools established as  
22 provided by law shall be credited to the town in which the  
23 school is located, and the amounts to be contributed by each  
24 town for the maintenance of such school shall be determined  
25 by the superintending school committees of the said towns.

Sect. 4. The state superintendent of public schools, with  
2 the approval of the governor and council, shall formulate  
3 such rules and regulations in regard to recording attendance  
4 in schools as may be necessary for the administration of the  
5 provisions of this act.

Sect. 5. When in the opinion of the state superintendent  
2 of public schools there is cause to investigate any returns  
3 made to him as provided by the preceding sections, he shall

4 report the same to the governor and council with his recom-  
5 mendations, and with the approval of the governor and coun-  
6 cil he shall make such investigation as shall determine the  
7 true aggregate attendance as provided in this act.

Sect. 6. One-half the amount received by any town from  
2 the distribution provided herein shall be deemed to be raised  
3 by such town within the meaning of section sixteen in said  
4 chapter sixteen of the Revised Statutes.

Sect. 7. This act shall take effect January first, nineteen  
2 hundred eighteen. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent  
3 with this act are hereby repealed.