

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 558

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*House of Representatives, March 13, 1917.*

*Referred to Committee on Education and five hundred copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.*

*W. R. ROIX, Clerk.*

*Presented by Mr. Jordan of Baileyville.*

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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 amend section sixty-six of chapter sixteen of the Revised Statutes relating to the ages between which children are required to attend school.

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

Section sixty-six of chapter sixteen of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended by inserting after the word "attend" in the eighteenth line thereof the words 'or may in their discretion require the attendance of any child between the fifteenth and sixteenth anniversaries of his birth who has not completed the elementary school course' so that said section when amended shall read as follows:

‘Sect. 66. Every child between the seventh and fifteenth  
2 anniversaries of his birth and every child between the fif-  
3 teenth and seventh anniversaries who cannot read at sight  
4 and write legibly simple sentences in the English language  
5 shall attend some public day school during the time such  
6 school is in session, and an absence therefrom of one-half  
7 day or more shall be deemed a violation of this require-  
8 ment; provided, that necessary absence may be excused by  
9 the superintending school committee or superintendent of  
10 schools or teachers acting by the direction of either; pro-  
11 vided, also that such attendance shall not be required if the  
12 child obtained equivalent instruction, for a like period of  
13 time, in an approved private school or in any other manner  
14 approved by the superintending school committee; provided,  
15 further, that children shall not be credited with attendance  
16 at a private school until a certificate showing their names,  
17 residence and attendance at such school signed by the per-  
18 son or persons having such school in charge, shall be filed  
19 with the school officials of the town in which said chil-  
20 dren reside; and provided, further, that the superintending  
21 school committee may exclude from the public schools  
22 any child whose physical or mental condition makes it  
23 inexpedient for him to attend, or may in their discretion  
24 require the attendance of any child between the fifteenth  
25 and sixteenth anniversaries of his birth who has not com-  
26 pleted the elementary school course. All persons having  
27 children under their control shall cause them to attend

28 school as provided in this section, and for every neglect  
29 of such duty shall be punished by a fine not exceeding  
30 twenty-five dollars or shall be imprisoned not exceeding  
31 thirty days.'