

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE NO. 86

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*In Senate, Feb. 2, 1917.*

*Referred to Committee on Education and one thousand copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.*

*W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.*

*Presented by Mr. Wood of Hancock.*

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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 establish military training in the public schools.

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

Section 1. On and after September one, nineteen hundred  
2 and seventeen, there shall be established in all the public  
3 schools of the state of not less than high school grade, a  
4 system or course in military training.

Sect. 2. A period of not less than fifteen minutes of each  
2 school day shall be devoted to such military training and  
3 shall be required throughout the entire school year of each  
4 male pupil in attendance upon the school unless excused  
5 for the reason of physical inability.

Sect. 3. It shall be the duty of all principals of the public schools of not lower than high school grade to perfect themselves in the science of military training during the summer vacation of nineteen hundred seventeen in order that they may be prepared to impart instruction in elementary military training at the opening of the school year in nineteen seventeen, and for the purpose of organizing the male students in their respective schools into companies for the purpose of securing the military instructors already provided for under recent congressional acts; and such military instruction shall be given daily in all said schools by the principal, or some person properly qualified until such time as an instructor is furnished under the terms of the federal law.

Sect. 4. The town or district superintendent in connection with the principal of any school under his jurisdiction into which such training is to be introduced may invite any officer of the National Guard or any other person skilled in military science whom they may judge competent and who from patriotic motives may be willing to act without pay, to assist said principal in organizing the male pupils of any school into companies and instructing them in the manual of arms and the elements of military training.

Sect. 5. The state superintendent of schools shall have the same general supervision over this branch of instruction as in all other matters connected with the public school, and it shall be his duty to see that the spirit of this law is

5 carried out and that the details for carrying this act into  
6 effect he worked out as rapidly as possible, including appli-  
7 cation to the general government for said military instructors  
8 and secure the same as soon as it may be.

Sect. 6. In the event that a sufficient number of military  
2 instructors cannot be furnished by the general government  
3 to meet all the requirements contemplated by this act, such  
4 instructors as are furnished shall be detailed by the state  
5 superintendent to such schools or districts as are unable  
6 readily to secure the voluntary services of an officer of the  
7 National Guard or other voluntary trained instructor.

Sect. 7. It shall be the duty of the military department  
2 of the state to give the state superintendent of schools any  
3 information in its possession, and its assistance when asked  
4 for, that may be necessary or helpful in carrying this act  
5 into speedy and effective operation.

Sect. 8. While this act is primarily for the purpose of  
2 introducing military training into the public schools of  
3 higher grade, it shall be within the powers of the state  
4 superintendent of schools whenever he deems it expedient  
5 to extend the training so as to embrace the eighth and ninth  
6 grades of grammar schools, and in graded schools, the ex-  
7 tent of which said training in grammar grades and in graded  
8 schools shall be carried to be left to the discretion of the  
9 state superintendent.