

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND NEW DRAFT.

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 424

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*In Senate, March 30, 1917.*

*Reported by Mr. Ames from committee on education and ordered printed under joint rules.*

*W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.*

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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 the opening of the school year  
2 of nineteen hundred seventeen there shall be established a  
3 course in military training in all high schools in the state in  
4 those cities and towns in which the superintending school  
5 committee may vote to introduce the same.

Sect. 2. Said course shall be founded upon and follow  
2 so far as practicable the so-called Wyoming Plan and be-  
3 ing the same set forth in Document No. 524 issued from  
4 the office of Chief of Staff of War Department of the Unit-

5 ed States, entitled "Outline of Plan for Military Training  
6 in Public Schools of United States, or Such Other Plan  
7 for Military Training as May Be Approved by the State  
8 Superintendent of Public Schools." But nothing herein  
9 shall require any school which already has a course of mili-  
10 tary training to change its present method.

Sect. 3. In all schools into which the superintending school  
2 committee may decide to introduce this system such train-  
3 ing may be imparted by the principal, or other teacher con-  
4 nected with the school, or by any officer of the National  
5 Guard or other person skilled in military science whom the  
6 superintending school committee may deem competent and  
7 who, from patriotic motives may be willing to act without  
8 pay, and whom said committee has invited to assist in or-  
9 ganizing such schools into companies and imparting said  
10 training until such time as an instructor is furnished under  
11 the terms of the federal law.

Sect. 4. Said course shall be voluntary and not compul-  
2 sory on the part of the pupil, but when he has elected to  
3 take the same it shall be required for such reasonable time  
4 as the school board may determine. Completion of any part  
5 of said course approved by the superintending school com-  
6 mittee may be recognized by them and may entitle the stu-  
7 dent to such credit toward graduation as the committee may  
8 determine.

Sect. 5. The state superintendent of schools shall have  
2 the same general supervision over this branch of instruc-

3 tion as in all other matters connected with the public school  
4 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 be worked out as rapidly as possible, including appli-  
7 cation to the general government for said military instruc-  
8 tors and secure the same as soon as 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. Students taking this course shall be known as  
2 high school cadets and shall be eligible to membership in  
3 the organization known as High School Volunteers of the  
4 United States and to wear the button and other insignia of  
5 honor when accepted as members thereof.