

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 32

H. P. 19 House of Representatives, Jan. 20, 1931.

Referred to Committee on Education and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Tompkins of Bridgewater.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE

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AN ACT Relating to School Attendance.

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

Section seventy-seven of chapter nineteen of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out in the fifth line thereof the word "eighth", and by striking out in the sixth line thereof the word "grade", and by substituting in the place thereof the word 'grades,' so that said section when amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 77. Every child between the seventh and fifteenth anniversaries of his birth and every child between the fifteenth and seventeenth anniversaries who cannot read at sight and write legibly simple sentences in the English language and every child between the fifteenth and sixteenth anniversaries who has not completed the grades of the elementary school shall attend some public day school during the time such school is in session, and an absence therefrom of one-half day or more shall be deemed a violation of this requirement; provided, that necessary absence may be excused by the superintending school committee or superintendent of schools or teachers acting by the direction of either; provided, also, that such attendance shall not be required if the child obtains equivalent instruction, for a like period of time, in a private school in which the course of study and methods of instruction have been approved by the state commissioner of educa-

tion, or in any other manner arranged for by the superintending school committee with the approval of the state commissioner of education; provided, further, that children shall not be credited with attendance at a private school until a certificate showing their names, residence, and attendance at such school, signed by the person or persons having such school in charge, shall be filed with the school officials of the town in which said children reside; and provided, further, that the superintending school committee may exclude from the public schools any child whose physical or mental condition makes it inexpedient for him to attend. All persons having children under their control shall cause them to attend school as provided in this section, and for every neglect of such duty shall be punished by a fine of not more than twenty-five dollars, or shall be imprisoned for not more than thirty days; provided, further, that a child between the ages of fourteen and sixteen who, because of sub-normal mental capacity, is unable to successfully pass the tests necessary to allow a regular work permit to be issued, may under conditions deemed proper receive a work permit issued jointly by the commissioner of education and the commissioner of labor, such persons to be employed in non-hazardous occupations.