

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 111

H. P. 360

House of Representatives, January 23, 1935.

Referred to Committee on Education, sent up for concurrence and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Hall of Bar Harbor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Evening Schools.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 19, § 25, amended. Section 25 of chapter 19 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 25. Cities and towns may raise money for evening schools. Any city or town may, in addition to the sum raised for the support of the common schools, raise and appropriate money for the support of evening schools, which shall admit persons ~~of any age over 16 years of age, shall teach only the elementary branches,~~ and shall be under the direction and supervision of the superintending school committee.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 19, § 167, amended. Section 167 of chapter 19 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 167. State aid to towns maintaining evening schools; Americanization and reducing illiteracy. Whenever the superintending school committee of any town shall have maintained during the school year an evening school as provided by section 25, said town shall be reimbursed by the state a sum equal to $\frac{2}{3}$ the amount paid for instruction in such evening school, ~~provided there shall have been offered, in addition to the sub-~~

jects elsewhere prescribed for evening schools, courses in the commercial branches, the domestic and manual arts, or the elements of the trades, said courses to be subject to the approval of the state commissioner of education; no town shall be entitled to receive a reimbursement under the provisions of this section, unless the total average attendance in said courses shall equal not less than twenty-five per cent of the average attendance of the school; provided, however, that for the purpose of Americanization and also for the purpose of reducing illiteracy within the state all towns and cities in which there are persons of normal mentality over eighteen years of age who are unable to read, to write, and to speak the English language to a reasonable degree of efficiency, or who are unable to read and to write in any language, are hereby authorized to organize and conduct evening schools or classes in which such persons of foreign birth or foreign extraction shall be given opportunity to learn to read, to write, and to speak the English language and to learn the duties of citizens in a democracy, and also in which illiterates shall be given opportunity to learn to read and to write and to pursue such other subjects as will increase their civic intelligence. Such schools and classes shall meet the approval of the commissioner of education in regard to the qualifications of instructors, length of term, class attendance and subjects offered, and towns maintaining them shall be reimbursed to the same extent and in the same manner as for other schools and classes set forth in this section.'