

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY - SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 501

H. P. 804

House of Representatives, February 7, 1945.

Referred to the Committee on Education, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Blake of Dexter.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-FIVE

**AN ACT to Equalize Opportunities for Education in Occupational
Training.**

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

R. S., c. 37, § 98, amended. Section 98 of chapter 37 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 98. A youth residing in town not supporting a secondary school may attend such school elsewhere; special provisions for occupational courses; tuition to be paid by town; free tuition while youth maintains satisfactory standards. Any youth who resides with a parent or guardian in any town which does not support and maintain a standard secondary school may attend any approved secondary school to which he may gain entrance by permission of those having charge thereof, provided the said youth shall attend a school or schools whose courses are approved by the commissioner. **Any youth who resides with a parent or guardian in a town that maintains, or contracts for school privileges in, an approved secondary school which offers less than 2 approved occupational courses of study, and whose qualifications for such training are approved by the superintending school committee of the town, may elect to attend some other approved secondary school to which he may gain admission for the purpose of studying an occupational course not offered or contracted for by the town of his legal residence.**

In ~~such~~ the case of any youth attending school in a town other than the town of his residence as provided for in this section, the tuition shall not exceed \$125 annually for any one youth, except that the tuition shall not exceed \$100 annually for any one youth in a secondary school which has not maintained a pupil-teacher ratio of at least 15 to 1 during the preceding year, or an average pupil-teacher ratio of 15 to 1 during the preceding 5 years, and which does not offer at least 3 courses of study, two of which shall be industrial or ~~vocational~~ occupational. Said tuition shall be paid by the town in which said youth resides as aforesaid, and said tuition shall be payable for the fall term of school on January 1st; for the winter term of school on April 1st; and for the spring term of school on July 1st. Said tuition so paid shall be made a part of the ~~high school fund of the town~~ secondary school fund of the town or academy receiving the same. Towns shall raise annually, as other school moneys are raised, a sum sufficient to pay such tuition charges. Provided, however, that no youth shall be entitled to free tuition under the provisions of this section unless he shall have satisfactorily passed an examination in elementary school branches, said examination having been given under the direction of the superintendent of schools of the town wherein such youth resides on papers procured from the commissioner, or unless such youth shall have satisfactorily completed a standard elementary school course of study which has been approved by the commissioner; except that any youth who has satisfactorily completed the course of a class B or junior high school, as provided by section 89, shall be entitled to his free tuition, as hereinbefore provided, for the completion of the 4 years of a standard secondary course without the examination herein prescribed; provided further, that such free tuition privilege shall continue only so long as said youth shall maintain a satisfactory standard of deportment and scholarship. Any youth who otherwise meets the requirements of this section with reference to admission to secondary schools shall be entitled to the payment of his tuition, as herein provided, in any high school of the B class or junior high school for such part of the course of such high school as may be approved as equivalent in grade to the corresponding years of a standard secondary course. Superintendents of schools shall issue certificates of free tuition privilege to persons who may be entitled to free tuition under the provisions of this section. Any school receiving tuition pupils under the provisions of this section shall provide, without additional charge, all text-books, apparatus, and appliances used by said pupils, subject to the provisions of sections 29 to 21, inclusive.'