

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S E C O N D L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 541

H. P. 938

House of Representatives, February 8, 1945.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Lord of Camden.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Permit Establishment of Area Secondary Schools.

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

R. S., c. 37, § 28, amended. Section 28 of chapter 37 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows :

‘Sec. 28. Union schools may be maintained by adjoining towns; management of such schools. Adjoining towns, upon the written recommendation of the school committees of said towns, may by concurrent action maintain union **elementary** schools for the benefit of parts of said towns or may establish such schools, and shall contribute to their support each in proportion to the number of scholars in each of said towns attending such schools. Said schools shall be under the management of the school committee of the town in which their schoolhouses are located.

Towns may, by concurrent action and on approval of the commissioner, establish and maintain secondary schools and shall contribute to their support in proportion to the number of pupils in each of said towns attending such area school. The cost of new school buildings and the renovations or additions to school buildings shall be borne by the several towns involved in proportion to their state valuation. Said schools shall be under the management of an area school committee composed of not less than 5 nor more than 9 members so elected by the several school committees from

their membership that each participating town will have at least 1 representative and further representation shall be determined from each town's average enrollment in the school, provided further, that no town shall have more than 3 members. Said area school committee at its first meeting shall determine by lot which members shall serve for 1, 2 or 3 years, provided the terms of office of as near $33 \frac{1}{3} \%$ of the members as possible shall expire each year. Thereafter, the terms of office shall be for 3 years. Such area school committees shall choose by ballot from their membership a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer. Such treasurer shall give bond to the committee to the satisfaction of the members thereof. The cost of such bond shall be borne by the area. The treasurer may, by vote of the committee, be compensated for his services. The organization of such an area school committee must be approved by the commissioner and when so approved is hereby empowered to act with the same responsibilities and powers with respect to said school as are assigned by section 50 to a superintending school committee. Moreover, said area school committee shall select and purchase land for the purpose of the school and shall build, equip, organize and operate an area school with necessary pupil transportation routes for the benefit of the participating towns. This area school committee is further empowered to receive and expend funds, to prorate maintenance and operation costs, including transportation, to the participating towns and is required to furnish annually before July 1 to the commissioner an audited statement of receipts and expenditures on forms furnished by him. The superintendent of schools of the town in which an area school is located will be the superintendent of the area school and shall have the same duties, powers and responsibilities with respect to such school as are provided for in section 78.'