

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 7

H. P. 8

House of Representatives, January 8, 1947.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Hayward of Machias.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Incorporate the Town of Machias School District.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Crowell and Lancaster, Architects, Bangor, Maine in a written report on the condition of Machias High School state that the basement and first floor construction is in a very dangerous condition and that there are several fire hazards in the building; and

Whereas, the lighting and sanitary conditions in this building and two elementary buildings are entirely inadequate; and

Whereas, it is imperative that action be taken at the earliest possible moment to relieve these dangerous conditions and immediately commence construction; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Incorporation; name; purposes. The town of Machias, its territory and the people therein subject to the provisions of this act, shall constitute a body politic and corporate under the name of the "Town of

Machias School District" for the purpose of providing additional school facilities within said district, for the purpose of erecting and constructing a new school building upon land provided and secured for school purposes, and located in said town of Machias, and for the further purposes of equipping and maintaining said building and grading the grounds about the same, all as hereinafter provided and for the benefit of the inhabitants of the said district.

Sec. 2. Trustees, powers and duties; limitations. All the affairs of said district, except the election of teachers who shall serve in said town of Machias schools and the fixing of their salaries, the courses of study, the terms of school and all other matters pertaining to the education of pupils, which matters shall be controlled by the school board of the town of Machias, shall be managed by a board of 5 trustees who shall be elected as is hereinafter provided.

Sec. 3. Trustees; how chosen; organization; compensation. All the affairs of said district as are herein provided shall be managed by a board of trustees composed of 5 members who shall hold office for the period of 5 years from the date of their appointment. Said trustees shall be chosen by the municipal officers of the town of Machias as soon as may be after the passage of this act as hereinafter provided. Removal from the town of Machias by any trustee shall ipso facto vacate his office. Vacancies upon the board of trustees occurring because of expiration of the official term of 5 years, removal from town, resignation, death or any cause shall be filled by the municipal officers of the town of Machias in the same manner in which the original board was chosen.

The members of the board, as soon as convenient after they have been chosen as above provided, shall meet upon call of one of their number after such reasonable notice as he shall deem proper. At the first meeting the trustees so appointed shall determine by lot the term of office of each trustee, so that 1 trustee shall retire each year and the term of office of the first trustee to expire shall end at the close of the municipal year of the town of Machias following the acceptance of this act. And thereafter the term of office of a trustee shall expire and his successor shall be appointed by the municipal officers of Machias at the close of each municipal year of said town. They shall then elect from their membership a president, clerk, and treasurer, adopt a corporate seal and do all other acts, matters and things necessary to perfect their organization. Thus organized, the trustees shall have the right and authority to employ such officers and agents as they may deem necessary for the proper conduct and management of the affairs of the district.

The trustees shall serve without compensation, except that the treasurer shall receive for his services an amount to be fixed by the board of trustees not to exceed \$300 per year. The treasurer shall give a bond to the district in such sum and with such sureties as the trustees may determine, which bond shall be deposited with the president. The expense of such bond shall be paid by the district. The treasurer's salary, bond premium and all expenses of the district shall be paid from the funds of the district. At the close of the fiscal year the trustees shall make a detailed report of their doing, of the financial condition of said district, and the physical condition of said school building, and also such other matters and things pertaining to said district as shall show the inhabitants thereof how said trustees are fulfilling the duties and obligations of their trust, said reports to be made, attested to and filed with the municipal officers of said town.

Sec. 4. Bond issue authorized; temporary loans; notes and bonds legal investment for savings banks. To procure funds for the purposes of this act the said district is hereby authorized to issue its bonds to an amount not exceeding the sum of \$150,000. Each bond shall have inscribed upon its face the words "Town of Machias School District" and shall bear interest at such rates as the trustees shall determine, payable semi-annually. Said bonds may be issued to mature serially or made to run for such periods as said trustees may determine, but none of which shall run for a longer period than 30 years. The said district is also authorized to borrow money for temporary purposes and to issue therefor the interest-bearing negotiable notes of the district, not exceeding in amount \$10,000 outstanding at any one time, which said notes shall be payable not later than 1 year from the date thereof. All the aforesaid notes or bonds issued by said district shall be signed by the treasurer and countersigned by the president of the district, and if coupon bonds be issued each coupon shall be attested by a facsimile signature of the president and treasurer printed thereon. Said notes and bonds shall be legal obligations of said district, which is hereby declared to be a quasi-municipal corporation within the meaning of section 132 of chapter 49 of the revised statutes and all the provisions of said section shall be applicable thereto. The said notes and bonds shall be legal investments for savings banks.

Sec. 5. Sinking fund; refunding bonds provided for. In case said bonds are made to run for a period of years, a sinking fund shall be established by the trustees of said district for the purpose of redeeming said bonds when they become due, and not less than 2% of the cost of the town of Machias school building land and its appurtenances and the expenses

incidental to the carrying out of the purposes of this act shall be added to said sinking fund each year, which may be deposited in any savings bank within the state or may be invested in any United States government bonds, state bonds or the bonds of any political subdivision thereof as the trustees may determine. Whenever any bonds issued by said district become due or can be purchased by said trustees on favorable terms, said trustees shall, if sufficient funds have accumulated in said sinking fund, redeem or purchase said bonds and cancel them. In no case shall bonds so cancelled or redeemed be reissued. In case the amount in the sinking fund shall not be sufficient to pay the total amount of the bonds falling due at any one time, authority to issue new bonds sufficient to redeem so many of said bonds as cannot be redeemed from the sinking fund is hereby granted to said district, but in no case shall new bonds run beyond 30 years from the date of the original issue.

Sec. 6. Assessment of taxes authorized to meet indebtedness; how collected; procedure. The trustees of the town of Machias School District shall determine the sum to be paid annually into the sinking fund, or if the bonds authorized by this act shall be issued to mature serially what amount is required each year to meet the interest on said bonds and other necessary expenses in the district, and shall each year thereafter, before the 1st day of April, issue their warrant in the same form as the warrant of the state treasurer for taxes, with proper changes, to the assessors of the town of Machias, requiring them to assess the sum so determined upon the taxable polls and estates within said district and to commit their assessment to the constable or collector of said town of Machias, who shall have all authority and powers to collect said taxes as is vested by law to collect state, county and municipal taxes. On or before the 31st day of December of the year in which said tax is so levied the treasurer of said district may issue his warrant for the amount of said tax or so much thereof as shall then remain unpaid to the sheriff of Washington County, requiring him to levy by distress and sale on real and personal property of any of the inhabitants of said district and the sheriff or either or any of his deputies shall execute said warrant except as is otherwise provided herein. The same authority as is vested in county officials for the collection of county taxes, under the provisions of the revised statutes, is hereby vested in the trustees of said district in relation to the collection of taxes within said district.

Sec. 7. When trustees cease to function. At such time as the school building shall have been completed, equipped and occupied by pupils and said district shall have discharged all of its principal obligations and the

property of said district shall be free and clear of all indebtedness, the board of trustees shall automatically cease to function and all of the duties, management, care and maintenance in respect to such school building shall revert to the school board of the town of Machias or other such board as may, at that time have jurisdiction over similar school property, and the then president and treasurer shall cause to be executed, signed and delivered, a good and sufficient deed of all property in said school district, to the town of Machias. All money, if any remains in the treasury of the board of trustees at the time it ceases to function, shall be given to the treasurer of the town of Machias. This money shall be used only for school purposes and shall be kept separate from all other money until authorized by the selectmen of the town of Machias to be expended as hereafter provided.

Sec. 8. Effective date of act; referendum. This act, as is provided in section 1 hereof, shall not take effect unless accepted and approved by a majority vote of the legal voters of the territory embraced within the limits of said district voting at an election to be specially called and held for the purpose, or at a regular town meeting, not later than 3 months after the approval of this act. Such special election shall be called, advertised and conducted according to the law relating to municipal elections; provided, however, that the board of registration in said town of Machias shall not be required to prepare for posting, or the town clerk to post, a new list of voters, and for the purpose of registration of voters, said board shall be in session the 3 secular days next preceding such elections, the first 2 days thereof to be devoted to registration of voters, and the last day to enable the board to verify the corrections of said lists and to complete and close up their records of said sessions. The town clerk shall reduce the subject matter of this act to the following: "Shall the bill to incorporate the Town of Machias School District be accepted?" and the voters shall indicate by a cross over the words "Yes" or "No" their opinion of the same. The result in said district shall be declared by the municipal officers of the town of Machias and due certificate filed by the town clerk with the secretary of state.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when accepted and approved by the town of Machias as hereinbefore provided.