

# 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

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 243**

H. P. 411

House of Representatives, January 29, 1947.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Brewer of Presque Isle.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-SEVEN

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### **AN ACT Relating to County and Local Agricultural Societies.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 27, § 15, amended.** Section 15 of chapter 27 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 15. County and local societies, or treasurers, may hold and manage property; bonds of treasurers.** County and local agricultural societies may take and hold property, real and personal, the annual income of which shall ~~not exceed \$3,000, to~~ be applied to the purposes provided in their charters; or their treasurers may receive conveyances or leases of such property for their societies, and hold, sell, mortgage or pledge it, and shall give bonds to the trustees for the safe-keeping thereof and the faithful discharge of their duties.'

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 27, § 16, amended.** Section 16 of chapter 27 of the revised statutes, as amended by section 1 of chapter 361 of the public laws of 1945, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 16. State aid to agricultural societies; apportionment; procedure for apportioning stipend; authority to summon officers and examine books and records; to apportion state stipend due societies.** There shall be appropriated annually from the state treasury a sum of money not to exceed

2c per inhabitant of the state, and an additional sum of money equal to 5% of the amount contributed under the provisions of section 16 of chapter 77, which shall be known as the state stipend for aid and encouragement to **agricultural societies** and hereafter designated as the "stipend." This stipend shall be divided among the legally incorporated agricultural clubs, societies and fair associations of the state, hereafter in this chapter designated as "societies," according to the following schedule and method. Said stipend shall be divided pro rata among the legally incorporated societies, not heretofore provided for, according to the amount of premiums and gratuities actually paid in full and in cash or valuable equivalent by said societies upon horses, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry and agricultural and domestic products, but no such society whether specifically mentioned in this chapter or otherwise shall be entitled to any share of the stipend unless it shall have complied with the following requirements, which shall be considered by the commissioner as the basis upon which his apportionment of the stipend shall be made as provided in this section. Each society claiming a share of the state stipend under the provisions of this section shall file with the commissioner not later than December 31st of the year for which said stipend is requested, a statement made under oath, by its treasurer, setting forth the financial condition and transactions of the society, the amounts paid in premiums in the several classes or displays herein provided for, and such additional information relative to the character of displays and the conduct of exhibitions as the commissioner may request, and upon blanks to be furnished by him. No premiums or gratuities shall be considered by the said commissioner in apportioning the amount of stipend to which any society is entitled except those offered and paid upon horses, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, vegetables, grain, fruit, flowers, products derived from horses, cattle, sheep, swine, home canned foods, grange exhibits, farm exhibits, boys' and girls' club exhibits, **exhibits of the mechanical arts**, domestic and fancy articles produced in the farm home, and pulling contests by horses and oxen ~~and in no case shall the amount allowed on account of premiums paid in said class of domestic and fancy articles exceed the total amount allowed as premiums upon vegetables, grain, fruits, and flowers.~~ No society, the Maine state pomological society excepted, shall receive from the state a sum greater than that actually raised and paid by the society as premiums and gratuities in the classes herein provided, and in no case shall any society be entitled to any share of the stipend unless it shall have raised and paid in premiums in the classes heretofore set forth at least \$200. No society shall receive any portion of the stipend in excess of ~~\$3,000~~ **\$5,000**. No society shall receive any portion of such stipend unless it shall have regularly entered and displayed in an

attractive manner upon its exhibition grounds ~~not less than 100 separate and distinct exhibits or entries of vegetables, fruits, grains or dairy products, or of subordinate and other granges and 4-H clubs,~~ of a quality acceptable to the commissioner or his regularly authorized agent and of varieties known to be common or standard to the county in which such exhibition is held. ~~The stipend may, however, be paid to such agricultural society or societies as may display a lesser number of exhibits of vegetables, fruits, or dairy products, than as hereinbefore required, provided the commissioner shall certify that in his opinion such society or societies have been unable for good and sufficient reasons to secure such required number of exhibits.~~ No society shall be entitled to any share of the stipend unless ~~it shall require all cattle exhibited or allowed upon its grounds at exhibition time to be tuberculin tested within 3 years previous to the date of its exhibition and declared free from tuberculosis by a veterinarian approved by the commissioner, and in all cattle to be shown or exhibited shall have come from herds wherein all animals were negative to the tuberculin test within 1 year of the opening date of the show, and unless all cattle to be exhibited (except oxen and steers) are from herds free of Bang's disease (Brucellosis) as shown by the official blood test made within 60 days of the opening date of the show except:~~

- I. Cattle from an accredited herd which has shown a clean test within 6 months;
- II. Cattle from a certified vaccinated herd tested within 6 months with no animals to be exhibited over 18 months of age which are not negative to the test;
- III. Cattle from a herd under official supervision which has had 2 negative tests, the last within 90 days of the date of the show; or
- IV. Cattle under 6 months of age from herds not under quarantine.

In the distribution of such stipend no allowance shall be made or consideration given on account of lump sums, payments or premiums previously arranged and agreed upon by exhibitors and the officers of any society for the presentation and display of any animals or products without regard to competition which may subsequently appear, **excepting, however,** any special agricultural exhibits of such nature as to preclude their entry in competition.

No stipend shall be paid on premiums or purses offered and paid by any such society at any event held other than during the period at which its annual exhibition is held.

The commissioner may summon before him and examine on oath any officer of any incorporated society or other person whose testimony he shall deem necessary in the proper discharge of his duties, and may require such witnesses to bring before him for examination any books or records in their custody or control which he may deem necessary for his information in the performance of his duties. The commissioner shall apportion annually the stipend due from the state to the societies, including the Maine state pomological society. He shall issue blanks to the proper officers of said societies for such returns as may be deemed necessary for a full and complete knowledge of the work of said societies for each year, and shall certify to the governor and council the amount of ~~bounty stipend~~ due such society, and shall designate to the treasurer of state to whom such moneys shall be paid, but said societies shall not be entitled to such ~~bounty stipend~~ unless they shall make such returns. Neglect or failure on the part of any society to observe any of the foregoing requirements shall be deemed sufficient cause for withholding such society's share of the stipend, and the commissioner is required and directed to authorize payment of stipend only to such societies as have observed all of the said requirements.

Provided, however, that the conducting of pari mutuel betting by any such society under license of the state racing commission, in accordance with the provisions of sections 1 to 22, inclusive, of chapter 77, shall not be deemed cause for withholding such society's share of the stipend.'

**Sec. 3. R. S., c. 27, § 22, repealed and replaced.** Section 22 of chapter 27 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof :

'**Sec. 22. Secretaries to report annually to commissioner.** The secretaries of the several societies shall prepare an annual report, embracing a concise statement of the financial condition and doings of the society, with a synopsis of the premiums awarded, to be made by filling blanks furnished by the commissioner. Said blanks, properly filled in, shall be returned to the commissioner not later than December 31st. Upon receipt and after examination of said returns, if the commissioner finds them full, faithful and accurate according to the intent hereof, he shall issue the certificate mentioned in section 17, and not otherwise.'

**Sec. 4. R. S., c. 27, §§ 20, 21, 23 and 27, repealed.** Sections 20, 21, 23 and 27 of chapter 27 of the revised statutes are hereby repealed.