

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1533

S. P. 672

In Senate, April 19, 1949.

Reported by Senator Baker of Kennebec from Committee on Legal Affairs and printed under Joint Rules No. 10.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

AN ACT to Incorporate the Skowhegan School District.

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

Sec. 1. Incorporation; name; purposes. Subject to the provisions of this act, the inhabitants of, and the territory within, the town of Skowhegan are hereby created a body politic and corporate under the name of "Skowhegan School District" for the purpose of acquiring real property within the said town for school and related athletic and recreational purposes; for the purpose of erecting, equipping and maintaining on said property a school building or school buildings and related athletic and recreational facilities; for the purpose of leasing or letting any property of said district to said town; for the purpose of receiving, accepting and holding gifts, grants or devises of property real, personal or mixed to be used for school and related athletic and recreational purposes; all for the benefit of the inhabitants of said district.

Sec. 2. Trustees, powers and duties; limitations. All the affairs of said district, as are herein provided, except election of teachers who shall serve in the said 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 superintending school committee of the town of Skowhegan, shall be managed by a board of 5 trustees, who

shall be elected as is hereinafter provided. The board of trustees, acting for said district, shall have and exercise all the powers and authority necessary to carry out the purposes of this act and the powers and authority granted herein.

Sec. 3. Trustees, how elected, tenure of office; organization of board; officers; etc. On acceptance of this act and at the meeting provided for in section 9 hereof at which said act is accepted, 5 members of the board of trustees shall be elected by the voters of the district, on nomination from the floor and by written ballot, 1 of whom shall serve until the annual municipal election occurring in March 1955, 1 to serve until the annual municipal election occurring in March 1954, 1 to serve until the annual municipal election occurring in March 1953, 1 to serve until the annual municipal election occurring in March 1952 and 1 to serve until the annual municipal election occurring in March 1951. Whenever any vacancy in the aforementioned 5 positions shall occur during an unexpired term, the remaining members of the board of trustees shall appoint someone who shall serve as trustee until the next annual municipal election, at which time the voters of the district shall elect a trustee to serve the unexpired portion of said term. At the 1st annual municipal election following the acceptance of this act, and at the regular municipal elections occurring annually thereafter, the voters of the district shall elect, in the manner as specified by the "charter or by-laws of the town of Skowhegan" as applied to the election of municipal officers of said town of Skowhegan, 1 trustee who shall serve for a 5-year period.

When any trustee ceases to be a resident of said district, he shall ipso facto vacate his office.

The superintendent of schools of the town of Skowhegan shall serve as secretary and clerk of the said board of trustees without voting power. All trustees shall be eligible for reelection or reappointment.

The first meeting of the board of trustees shall be held as soon as convenient after they have been elected as above provided. At this original meeting, they shall elect from their membership a president and a treasurer, shall adopt a corporate seal, may ordain and establish such by-laws consistent with the laws of the state as are necessary for their own convenience and the proper management of the affairs of said district, and may do all other acts, matters and things necessary to perfect their organization. Within 2 weeks after each annual town meeting of the town of Skowhegan, the trustees shall meet for the purpose of electing a president and treasurer for the ensuing year and until their successors are elected

and qualified. The trustees shall have the right and authority to employ and fix compensation of 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 may receive for his services an amount to be fixed by the board of trustees not in excess of \$100 per year. The treasurer shall give bond to the district in such sum and with such sureties as the trustees may determine, which bond shall remain in the custody of the president. The cost of such a bond shall be paid by the district.

At the close of each fiscal year of said district, which shall coincide with the fiscal year of the town of Skowhegan, the trustees shall make a detailed report of their doings, of the financial condition of said district, of the physical condition of its property, and also of 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 trusts. Such report shall be made and filed with the municipal officers of the town of Skowhegan on or before February 15 of each year.

Sec. 4. How financed. To procure funds for the purposes of this act, and for such other expenses as may be necessary to carry out said purposes the said district, by its trustees, is hereby authorized from time to time to borrow money and to issue its bonds and notes therefor, but shall not incur a total indebtedness exceeding the sum of \$300,000. Each bond and note shall have inscribed upon its face the words "Skowhegan School District", shall bear interest at such rates as the trustees shall determine, payable semiannually, and shall be subject to such other provisions as the trustees shall determine. Said bonds and notes may be issued to mature serially or made to run for such periods with call provision as said trustees may determine, but none of which shall run for a longer period than 30 years from the date of original issue thereof. All bonds and notes issued by said district shall be signed by the treasurer and countersigned by the president of said district, and if coupon bonds be issued, each coupon shall be attested by the facsimile signatures of the president and treasurer printed thereon. Said bonds and notes 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 bonds and notes shall be legal investments for trust companies and savings banks. Said trustees are hereby authorized and empowered to enter into such an agreement with the federal govern-

ment or state government, or any agency thereof, or any corporation or board authorized by the federal or state government to loan money or otherwise assist in the financing of such projects as this school district is authorized to carry out, as may be necessary or desirable to accomplish the purposes of this act.

Sec. 5. Sinking fund. In case any bonds or notes at any time issued are made to run for a period of years (as distinguished from serial maturity), the trustees shall establish a sinking fund for such bonds or notes for the purpose of redeeming the same when they become due. The amount to be paid annually into such sinking fund shall not be less than $3\frac{1}{3}\%$ of the total principal amount of such bonds or notes originally issued. In addition to such annual sinking fund payment, the trustees shall have authority from time to time to add to any such sinking fund any funds of said district not required for other purposes. Funds in any sinking fund may be deposited in any national bank, savings bank or trust company within the state or may be invested in whole or in part in any bonds of the United States, of the state of Maine or of any political subdivision thereof, as the trustees may determine. Interest received on any funds so invested shall be added to the sinking fund. When and if the amount accumulated in any sinking fund, together with interest received or to be received thereon, shall be sufficient to pay at maturity or, at the option of the trustees, to redeem the bonds or notes for the benefit of which such sinking fund was established, all further payments to such sinking fund shall cease.

Whenever any bonds or notes issued by said district may become due or can be purchased or called for redemption by said district on favorable terms, said trustees, if sufficient funds have accumulated in the sinking fund provided therefor, shall pay, purchase or redeem said bonds or notes and cancel them. In no case shall bonds or notes so paid, purchased or redeemed, and cancelled, be reissued.

In case the amount in the sinking fund shall not be sufficient to pay the total amount of the notes or bonds falling due at any time, authority to issue new notes or bonds sufficient to redeem so many of said notes or bonds as cannot be redeemed from the sinking fund is hereby granted to said trustees, but in no case shall new notes or 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 "Skowhegan School District" shall determine what sum is required each year for sinking fund payments, or if the bonds or notes authorized by this act shall be issued to mature serially,

what sum is required each year to meet the bonds and notes falling due, and what sum is required each year to meet the interest on said bonds or **other obligations**, and what sum is required each year to meet other expenses in the district, necessary to carry out the purposes expressed in section 1 hereof, and shall each year, before the 1st day of April, issue their warrant in the same form as the warrant of the treasurer of state for taxes, with proper changes, to the assessors of the town of Skowhegan, requiring **that they assess the total 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 Skowhegan, who shall have all authority and powers to collect said taxes as is vested by law to collect, state, county and municipal taxes. 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, and the same rights, remedies and relief are hereby granted the inhabitants of said town and the inhabitants of said district as are afforded to the inhabitants of towns with relation to county taxes.

Sec. 7. Provisions for termination of board of trustees. At such time as the school building or buildings and related athletic and recreational facilities shall have been completed, equipped and occupied by pupils of said district, and the board of trustees of the 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 of the property of said district shall revert to the superintending school committee of the town of Skowhegan or such other board as may at that time have jurisdiction over similar school property, and the then president and treasurer of said district shall cause to be executed, signed and delivered, a good and sufficient deed of all the property of said district to the town of Skowhegan.

All money, if any, remaining in the treasury of said district at the time said trustees cease to function, shall be given to the town treasurer of the town of Skowhegan. 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 Skowhegan to be expended for one or more of the purposes stated in this act.

Sec. 8. Authority to receive property from town of Skowhegan. The "Skowhegan School District" is hereby authorized to receive from the

town of Skowhegan, and said town of Skowhegan is hereby authorized to transfer and convey to said district, any property, real, personal or mixed, now or hereafter owned or held by the town of Skowhegan for school purposes, and any sums of money or other assets which the said town of Skowhegan has raised or may raise, either by taxation, borrowing or otherwise, for school purposes. Before transferring and conveying any of said property or turning over any of said funds or assets, the municipal officers of the town of Skowhegan shall be duly authorized to do so by a majority vote of the legal voters present and voting at any annual or special town meeting, the call for which shall have given notice of the proposed action.

Sec. 9. Referendum; effective date. This act shall take effect 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature, only for the purpose of permitting its submission to the legal voters of the territory embraced within the limits of said district, present and voting at a special meeting called and held for the purpose not later than 3 months after the effective date of this act. Such special meeting 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 Skowhegan 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 special meeting, the 1st and 2nd days thereof to be devoted to the registration of voters and the 3rd day to enable said board to verify the corrections of said list and to complete and close up their records of said sessions. The town clerk shall prepare the required ballots on which he shall reduce the subject matter of this act to the following question: "Shall the act to Incorporate the Skowhegan School District be accepted?" and the voters shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed 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 Skowhegan, and due certificate thereof filed by the town clerk with the secretary of state. This act shall take effect for all the purposes hereof immediately upon its acceptance by a majority of the legal voters voting at said meeting; provided that the total number of votes cast for and against the acceptance of this act at said meeting equals or exceeds 20% of the total vote for all candidates for governor in said town at the next previous gubernatorial election.