

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 705

H. P. 1118

House of Representatives, February 14, 1951

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. DeBeck of Holden.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-ONE

AN ACT to Incorporate the Town of Orrington School District.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, the accommodations for the pupils in the town of Orrington are inadequate to accommodate the pupils therein; and

Whereas, there are at present 4 scattered buildings now used for school purposes resulting in inefficiency in administration with corresponding waste of money; and

Whereas, over-crowded conditions make it impossible to properly instruct the students in said schools and to maintain proper health and sanitary conditions therein, whereby the health, welfare, peace and safety of students is jeopardized; and

Whereas, further delay in building a suitable school building or buildings or additions to present buildings will endanger the health of the students in said town and will prevent their receiving the proper instruction to which they are entitled; and

Whereas, it is impossible for the town of Orrington to borrow the necessary money with which to build a school building or buildings or additions to present buildings; and

Whereas, if immediate action is taken it may be possible to obtain federal funds to assist in the building of the new school building or buildings or additions to present buildings; 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. Subject to the provisions of this act, the inhabitants of and the territory within the town of Orrington are hereby created a body politic and corporate under the name of "Town of Orrington School District" for the purpose of acquiring property within the said town for school and related athletic and recreational purposes; for the purpose of erecting, enlarging, repairing, equipping and maintaining on said property a school building or school buildings or additions to present buildings and related athletic and recreational facilities; for the purpose of maintaining elementary and secondary schools; for the purpose of completing, grading, furnishing, rebuilding, renovating and otherwise bettering the condition of any or all buildings within said town used for school purposes or which may hereafter be used for school purposes; 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 (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 school board of the town of Orrington) shall be managed by a board of 5 trustees who shall be elected as hereinafter provided. The board of trustees, acting for the 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; vacancies; compensation; reports. The trustees shall be elected by a regular or special town meeting as soon as may be after the acceptance of this act as hereinafter provided. The trustees shall be residents of said district and shall be elected for the following terms: 1 until the

annual town meeting in 1952, 1 until the annual town meeting in 1953, 1 until the annual town meeting in 1954, 1 until the annual town meeting in 1955, and 1 until the annual town meeting in 1956. At each annual town meeting of the town of Orrington, beginning with the annual town meeting in 1952, 1 trustee shall be elected to serve until the annual town meeting occurring 5 years thereafter. When any trustee ceases to be a resident of said district he vacates the office of trustee. Any vacancy upon the board of trustees occurring because of change of residence of trustee, resignation, death or any cause except normal expiration of term of office shall be filled by the municipal officers of the town of Orrington until the next town meeting.

As soon as convenient after all the members of said board have been elected, the trustees shall hold a meeting to be called by one of their number after such reasonable notice as he may deem proper; at the 1st meeting of said trustees, they shall organize by the election from their own membership of 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 said district and annually thereafter at the beginning of each munciipal year, the trustees shall organize as herein provided.

The trustees shall serve without compensation, except that the treasurer shall receive as full compensation for his services an amount to be fixed by the board of selectmen of said town of Orrington, not to exceed \$100 per year; and such salary and expenses of the district shall be paid from the funds of the district. At the close of each fiscal year, the trustees shall make a detailed report of their doings, of the financial condition of said district, of the physical condition of the school buildings and equipment, 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; such report shall be made and filed with the municipal officers of said town on or before March 1st 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 trustees are hereby authorized from time to time to borrow such sums of money as shall be fixed at an annual meeting of the town of Orrington or a special meeting thereof called and held for the purpose, and to issue bonds and notes of the district therefor, but shall not incur a total indebtedness exceeding the sum of \$75,000. Each bond and note shall have inscribed upon its face the words "Town of Orrington School District" and

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 as said trustees may determine, but none of which shall run for a longer period than 30 years from the date of the 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 savings banks. The said district is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into such an agreement with the federal 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 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; refunding bonds provided for. 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 shall become due. The amount to be paid annually into such sinking fund shall be not 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 savings bank within the state or may be invested in whole or in part in any bonds of the United States, or 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 canceled, be reissued.

In case the amount in any sinking fund shall not be sufficient to pay the total amount when due of the bond or notes for which such sinking fund was provided, or in case it shall become desirable in the opinion of the trustees to call for redemption any outstanding bonds or notes and to issue new bonds or notes in their stead, authority is hereby granted to said trustees to issue new bonds or notes sufficient in amount to pay or redeem so many of said original bonds or notes as cannot be paid or redeemed from the sinking fund provided therefor, if any, but in no case shall such new bonds or notes mature more than 30 years from the original date of issue of the original bonds or notes so refunded.

Sec. 6. Assessments of taxes authorized to meet indebtedness; how collected; procedure. The trustees of the "Town of Orrington 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 necessary expenses in the district, 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 assessors of the town of Orrington, requiring that they assess the total sum so determined upon the taxable polls and estates within said district and to commit their assessments to the constable or collector of said town of Orrington, 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 31st day of December of the year in which said tax is so levied, the treasurer of said town shall pay the amount of the tax so assessed against said district to the treasurer of said district. In case of a failure on the part of the treasurer of the town to pay said sum, or in case of his failure to pay any part thereof on or before said 31st day of December of the year in which said tax is 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 Penobscot 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 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. Provisions for termination of the 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 school board of the town of Orrington 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 Orrington. 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 Orrington. 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 Orrington to be expended for one or more of the purposes stated in this act.

Sec. 8. Authority to receive property from the town of Orrington. The town of Orrington school district is hereby authorized to receive from the town of Orrington, and said town of Orrington 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 Orrington for school purposes and any sums of money or other assets which the said town of Orrington 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 Orrington shall be duly authorized to do so by a majority vote of the legal voters present at any annual or special town meeting, the call for which shall have given notice of the proposed action.

Sec. 9. Emergency clause; effective date; referendum. In view of the emergency recited in the preamble hereof, this act shall take effect when approved, only for the purpose of permitting its submission to the legal voters of the town of Orrington at any regular or special meeting called and held for the purpose not later than 4 months after the approval 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 of said town of Orrington shall not be required to

prepare for posting, nor 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 the board to verify the corrections of said list 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 question: "Shall the act to Incorporate the Town of Orrington 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. 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 equals or exceeds 20% of the total vote for all candidates for governor cast in said town at the next previous gubernatorial election. The result in said district shall be declared by the municipal officers of the town of Orrington and due certificate thereof filed by the clerk of said town with the secretary of state.