

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. 881

S. P. 353

In Senate, February 22, 1951.

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

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Noyes of Hancock.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Schooling in Unorganized Territory.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 32, § 38, sub-§ II, amended. Subsection II of section 38 of chapter 32 of the revised statutes, as enacted by chapter 328 of the public laws of 1947, is hereby amended to read as follows:

'II. The balance then remaining shall be added to the ~~school equalization fund~~ unorganized territory school fund; the treasurer of state shall file with the commissioner of finance, on or before January 15 of each year, a list of interest earned by the unorganized townships fund during the preceding calendar year; such list shall be arranged to show the principal amount held for each unorganized township and the interest earned thereon; the commissioner of finance shall thereupon transfer the total amount of such list, less the allocation provided for in subsection I, to the Unorganized Territory School Fund for the fiscal year following the date of such list; a copy of said list shall be transmitted to the commissioner of education by the treasurer of state.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 37, § 146, amended. Section 146 of chapter 37 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 146. Unorganized territory school fund; how used. Such amounts as are necessary to carry out the provisions of ~~the 4 preceding sections 142, 143, 144, 146, 147, 149 and 155~~ shall be paid out of ~~such funds as the legislature may appropriate~~ **the Unorganized Territory School Fund which is hereby established.** The commissioner is authorized to use this ~~appropriation fund~~ for any purpose in connection with the schooling of children in the unorganized territory of the state, including: **teachers' salaries, board and traveling expenses of teachers and supervisors; conferences, training programs and professional improvement of teachers; fuel and janitor service; tuition, board and transportation of elementary school pupils; secondary school tuition; text-books and reference books, school apparatus and supplies; erection, equipment, repair and maintenance of schoolhouses and requisite buildings, all of which schoolhouses shall conform to the minimum requirements for school buildings as provided required by section 21; lots for school buildings, or leases thereof or rentals of lots or school buildings; minor repairs to school buildings or equipment; services, and expenses, and fees of agents, and attendance officers, and clerical assistance; office expenses; utility service; school medical and dental services; and any other expenses he may deem necessary to carry out the purposes of the above mentioned sections.'**

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 37, § 148, amended. Section 148 of chapter 37 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 148. Limitation of school tax rate for unorganized units... ~~Whenever there are 200 or more persons of all ages resident of an unorganized unit which was formerly a town or plantation, on April 1 of any year, in accordance with the sworn returns of the agent for said unorganized unit duly appointed by the commissioner as provided by section 149~~

I. As soon as practicable after April 1, 1951, and on April 1, annually, thereafter, the total cost of school privileges provided in any unorganized unit under sections 142, 143, 144 and 146, for the school year ending on the following preceding June 30, together with an additional charge of ~~5%~~ **8%** of such total cost for administration, but with deductions for the amount of interest on lands reserved, if any, **prorated to allow for the allocation provided by subsection I of section 38 of chapter 32, of said unorganized unit for said school year and the amount said unorganized unit if a town would receive from the state as provided by section 99, 201, 202, 203, and 204, any other sums credited to the unorganized territory school fund on behalf of said unit,** shall be assessed upon the property of said unorganized unit by the state tax assessor in accordance with the provisions of section 74-A of chapter 14, provided said assessment

shall be limited to ~~a school tax rate of 10 mills on the dollar above~~ the average of school tax rates of the municipalities of the state for the preceding school year. It shall be the duty of the commissioner to furnish on or before February 10 of ~~the following~~ each year to the state tax assessor a ~~detailed~~ statement of expenditures for school purposes **in each unorganized unit during the preceding school year** and deductions on account of interest on lands reserved and ~~state school funds~~ **other** credits as hereinbefore provided for such unorganized units, for use in making said tax assessment and as a permanent record thereof. ~~The proceeds of this tax shall be credited to the general fund.~~ **A copy of said statement shall also be furnished to the commissioner of finance, who shall credit the amount of said tax assessment to the unorganized territory school fund for the fiscal year following the date of such statement.**

II. The state tax assessor shall include the amounts of such school tax assessment, as made in accordance with the provisions of section 74-A of chapter 14, in the statements referred to in section 77 of chapter 14. He shall collect such taxes and deposit the receipts with the treasurer of state daily. Payment and collection of such school taxes shall be in accordance with the provisions of sections 77-A to 77-C, inclusive of chapter 14.

III. Such additional amounts as are recommended by the commissioner as necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 142, 143, 144, 146, 147, 149 and 155 shall be appropriated by the legislature from the general funds of the state and credited to the unorganized territory school fund.

IV. Any expended balance in the unorganized territory school fund shall be carried forward and shall not lapse into the unappropriated surplus account.'