

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 65

H. P. 45

House of Representatives, January 15, 1959.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Wheaton of Princeton.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-NINE

AN ACT to Incorporate the Town of Topsfield.

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

Sec. 1. Town of Topsfield, incorporated. The Unorganized Territory of Topsfield, in the County of Washington, with the inhabitants therein, is incorporated into a town by the name of Topsfield. The inhabitants of said town are vested with the powers, privileges and immunities which the inhabitants of towns within the State do or may enjoy. The town hereby created shall take the effects belonging to the former Town of Topsfield and later to the Plantation of Topsfield and which have not heretofore been legally disposed of by the State or by the County of Washington.

Sec. 2. Effective date. This act shall become effective for all purposes, except education, at the annual meeting in March, 1960.

Sec. 3. Effective date for education. This act shall become effective for education purposes July 1, 1960, on which date the Town of Topsfield shall assume full responsibility for providing the educational opportunities as required and permitted under the laws of the State, and the Town of Topsfield shall thereafter be subject to the same requirements, benefits and privileges as other towns in the State. The first full subsidy payment under the provisions of the General Purpose Educational Aid Law shall be due and payable December, 1960, said subsidy to be based on expenditures made by the State for the Unorganized Territory of Topsfield, as described in the Revised Statutes of 1954, chapter 41, sections 159 to 166, it being the intent to base subsidy on the expenditures Topsfield would have made had it been an organized municipality.

Sec. 4. Responsibility of State. The State of Maine shall assume responsibility for any outstanding indebtedness at the time of reincorporation; and thereafter neither the Town of Topsfield nor the inhabitants therein shall be deemed responsible for any obligations incurred prior to these dates. As of the effective date of incorporation, the State shall turn over and deliver to the Town of Topsfield all funds, including funds of the Ministerial and School Funds, belonging to the former Town of Topsfield and later to the Plantation of Topsfield, that remain after the payment of outstanding indebtedness.

Sec. 5. Town required to be a member of the Maine Forestry District. After the effective date of this act in March 1960, the Town of Topsfield shall be required to be a member of the Maine Forestry District.

Sec. 6. Referendum; effective date; certificate to Secretary of State. This act shall take effect 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature, only for the purpose of permitting its submission to the legal voters within the Unorganized Territory of Topsfield at an election to be called and held in said territory on the 3rd Monday in September, 1959. Such election shall be called, held and conducted by the Secretary of State in the same manner as local option elections in unorganized territory are conducted in accordance with the Revised Statutes of 1954, chapter 61, section 23, except that no petition for said election shall be required.

This act shall take effect for all the purposes hereof immediately upon its acceptance by a majority of the legal voters voting at said election; provided the total number of votes cast for and against the acceptance of this act equals or exceeds 50% of the total number of qualified voters in said unorganized territory.

The result of the vote shall be declared by the Secretary of State and due certificate thereof filed by him in his office.