

# 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

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 729**

S. P. 267

In Senate, February 17, 1959.

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Dow of Lincoln.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-NINE

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**AN ACT Creating the Maine Educational Television Authority.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 41, §§ 189-A - 189-D, additional.** Chapter 41 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding 4 new sections to be numbered 189-A to 189-D, to read as follows:

**‘Maine Educational Television Authority.**

**Sec. 189-A. Declaration of policy.** It is declared to be the policy of the State to provide proper direction for and encourage appropriate use of television in education, to encourage prudent action relative to the construction and operation of educational television facilities within the State and to support a program of coordinated liaison between educator and broadcaster to the benefit of both youth and adults among our citizens.

**Sec. 189-B. Maine Educational Television Authority.** For the purpose of providing direction for, stimulating the use of and correlating and disseminating accurate information about the use of television in education, and for the purpose of determining and performing action necessary for the establishment of educational television services for the greatest numbers of Maine citizens, a Maine Educational Television Authority is established, consisting of 7 members, one of whom shall be the Commissioner of Education, who shall serve as secretary to the authority; the remaining 6 members shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Executive Council to serve for a period of 5 years. Vacancies in the membership of this authority shall be filled by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council. At the expiration of their

term of office, a recommendation shall have been made by the authority to the Maine Legislature concerning the disposition of their duties and responsibilities concerning the manner of administering educational television services in the State. Members of the authority shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties and, with the exception of the Commissioner of Education, shall receive \$10 per day for services actually rendered.

**Sec. 189-C. Organization; by-laws and rules and regulations.** The Maine Educational Television Authority shall meet at the call of its secretary and organize by electing from its membership a chairman and vice-chairman. The authority shall adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations for the calling and holding of meetings and the administration of its affairs as it deems appropriate and necessary to effectuate the purposes of sections 189-A to 189-D. A majority of the membership of the authority shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.

**Sec. 189-D. Powers and duties.** The Maine Educational Television Authority is empowered and authorized and it shall be their duty:

I. To appoint and employ, in accordance with the Personnel Law, a Coordinator for Educational Television and such other personnel as may be deemed necessary to carry out the duties imposed on it by sections 189-A to 189-D, to fix the duties of the coordinator and to utilize the staff of the State Department of Education as required.

II. To furnish or otherwise encourage the use of such educational television program services to the people of Maine in cooperation with the commercial television station operators as is deemed valuable for this purpose by the authority, and to endeavor to strengthen such benefits by arranging for the distribution of additional educational material in support of such programs. To that end, the authority is empowered to produce, lease, buy, rent and otherwise deal with films, kinescopes, recordings and other types of programs for educational and cultural telecasting purposes, and to enter into agreement with other persons, corporations, groups and agencies for the purpose of receiving, exchanging, rebroadcasting, selling, leasing or buying of programs and engaging in any other action necessary or desirable to carry out such purpose.

III. To correlate the information and coordinate efforts to bring about competency in the effective use of television in the schools and institutions of the State among administrators, teachers, students, communications personnel, government personnel, community groups and supporting organizations.

To that end, the authority is empowered to enter into agreement with other persons, departments, institutions, corporations, groups and agencies for the purpose of discussing, instructing and otherwise disseminating information to this purpose.

IV. To be responsible for a thorough study of the needs related to the establishment and use of nonprofit educational television facilities in the State of Maine.

To that end, the authority shall, likewise, be empowered to contract or otherwise employ legal, technical, financial or educational consultant services and shall further endeavor to establish in cooperation with educational and cultural institutions and organizations a well-defined policy of operation and financial structure for such educational television facilities in the State.

V. This authority shall have the power to organize and select an advisory council, the membership of which shall serve without compensation.

The authority shall determine the membership of the council and the time and number of meetings of same. It shall be the duty of the advisory council to assist the authority in carrying out sections 189-A to 189-D.

VI. It shall further be the duty of the authority, together with the advisory council, at the end of the authority members' 5-year term, to draft recommendations to the Maine Legislature concerning the disposition of such duties and responsibilities as shall have developed for administration of educational television in Maine.

VII. In order to accomplish its duties, it shall be the power of the Maine Educational Television Authority from time to time to do any one or more or all of the acts and procedures set forth in this section, and all other such acts in any manner connected therewith, or necessary, incidental, convenient or auxiliary thereto, or calculated directly or indirectly to promote the benefits of educational television in the State of Maine including the power to obtain and to hold appropriate authorizations, permits or licenses from federal or state governmental agencies or subdivisions; and to obtain and to hold by contribution, deed or lease, including, but not restricted to, real and personal property to be used in connection with educational television services in Maine; to solicit and accept from public and private sources, in trust or otherwise, money and other property to be used for these purposes.

VIII. It shall be the duty of the authority biennially to make a formal report of its activities and accomplishments together with any further recommendations to the Maine Legislature, and to make a summary of its proceedings and activities available to the Governor and Executive Council upon request or at the completion of each 6-month period.

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund of the State \$24,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1960, and \$26,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1961, to enable the authority to carry out the duties described in this act.