

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

SIXTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1893.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820,
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PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1893.

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beneficiaries as provided in section six of this act, nor until said corporation has filed with the insurance commissioner a certified copy of the record of its organization and by-laws, which has been approved by him; nor until the insurance commissioner has certified that it has complied with the provisions of this act and is authorized to transact business. No organization under the provisions of this act shall continue valid more than one year unless the organization has been completed and business begun thereunder.'

—organizations shall not be valid more than one year, unless business is begun.

SECT. 2. This act shall take effect when approved.

Approved March 16, 1893.

Chapter 216.

An Act to Abolish School Districts and to provide for more Efficient Supervision of Public Schools.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

SECT. 1. The school districts in all towns in this state are hereby abolished. Provided, however, that school districts organized with special powers by act of the legislature, may retain such organization and special powers; but said districts shall annually, on or before the first day of June, by their agents, trustees or directors, submit to the school committees of their several towns estimates of the amounts required for the maintenance of the schools therein, other than free high schools, for the ensuing school year, and shall be entitled to such portion of the common school funds of the town as said committees shall determine, which sum shall not be less than is necessary for the maintenance of their schools for a period equal to that of the other schools of the town.

All school districts abolished except districts organized by act of legislature.

—how schools in such districts shall be supported.

SECT. 2. Immediately after this act shall have become a law, towns shall take possession of all school houses, lands, apparatus and other property owned and used by the school districts hereby abolished, which districts may lawfully sell and convey. The property so taken shall forthwith be appraised by the assessors of said towns, and at the first annual assessment thereafter a tax shall be levied upon the whole town, or such part thereof as is included within the districts abolished, equal to the whole of said appraisal, and

Towns shall take possession of all school houses and property of, abolished districts.

—how taxpayers may be reimbursed.

there shall be remitted to the tax payers of each of said districts the said appraised value of its property so taken. In case of districts comprising parts of two or more towns, the assessors of said towns shall jointly appraise the school property belonging to said districts, and shall determine the part thereof belonging to each of the said towns, and each town shall remit to the tax payers in its part of such district the part so determined, in the same manner as in case of districts wholly within said town. Except that cities or towns, which have or shall reimburse districts or parts of districts for their school property, shall receive for the use of such city or town, the money to which such districts or parts of districts shall be entitled under this act.

SECT. 3. This act shall not abolish or change the location of any school legally established at the time of its passage; but any town at its annual meeting, or at a meeting called for the purpose, may determine the number and location of its schools, and may discontinue them or change their location; but such discontinuance or change of location shall be made only on the written recommendation of the superintending school committee, and on conditions proper to preserve the just rights and privileges of the inhabitants for whose benefit such schools were established; provided, however, that in case of any school having, as now established, or which shall hereafter have, too few scholars for its profitable maintenance, the superintending school committee may suspend the operation of such school for not more than one year, unless otherwise instructed by the town, and may provide for the scholars belonging thereto in other schools, for which purpose they may, if in their judgment necessary, procure the conveyance of said scholars to such other schools and pay for the same from the school moneys of the town.

SECT. 4. The corporate powers of every school district shall continue under this act so far as the same may be necessary for the meeting of its liabilities and the enforcing of its rights; and any property held in trust by any school district by virtue of a gift, devise or bequest for the benefit of said district shall continue to be held and used according to the terms thereof.

SECT. 5. The school moneys of every town shall be so expended as to give as nearly as practicable the same aggregate annual length of terms in all its schools, and every town

Act shall not change location of any school district.

—towns may determine number and location on recommendation of school committee.

—operation of schools in small districts may be suspended, and pupils provided for in other schools.

Corporate powers of districts continued for purpose of meeting liabilities.

Equal school privileges shall be provided for all pupils.

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—towns failing to comply, debarred from drawing money from the state.

Union schools may be maintained by adjoining towns.

—management of such schools.

Inhabitants of any section of a town may maintain free high school.

—officers of town may call meeting of voters to organize such school precinct.

—officers, how chosen, powers and duties.

—such precinct may be continued from year to year.

—sections of adjoining towns, may organize precincts.

—assessment and collection of moneys raised.

shall make provision for the maintenance of all its schools for not less than twenty weeks annually. Any town failing to maintain its schools as provided in this section, shall be debarred from drawing its state school moneys, till it shall have made suitable provision for so maintaining them thereafter.

SECT. 6. Adjoining towns, upon the written recommendation of the school committee of said towns, may by concurrent action maintain union schools for the benefit of parts of said towns in what are now union school districts, or may establish such schools, and shall contribute to their support each in proportion to the number of scholars in each of said towns attending such schools. Said schools shall be under the management of the school committee of the town in which their school houses are located.

SECT. 7. The inhabitants of any section of a town which fails or neglects to provide for the maintenance of free high schools, may organize a free high school precinct in the manner hereinafter provided, which shall have all the rights conferred upon school districts in the provisions of law relating to free high schools; on petition of any five voters resident in said section, reciting the limits of the precinct proposed, the municipal officers of the town shall call a meeting of the voters within said limits by causing notices, specifying the time, place and purposes of said meeting, seven days before the time appointed, to be posted in two or more conspicuous places within said limits. Said meeting shall choose a moderator and a clerk who shall be sworn, and shall, by a majority vote of those present and voting, determine whether said precinct shall be organized. It shall choose an agent who shall be duly sworn, whose powers and duties shall be the same as those of district agents as defined in the law relating to free high schools. Such precinct may continue its organization from year to year by the holding of meetings called in the manner aforesaid, so long as the town shall neglect or refuse to support free high schools. Sections of adjoining towns may organize as herein provided, and unite in the support of such schools. But no more than two such precincts shall exist at the same time in any town. Moneys voted by said precincts shall be assessed and collected in the manner now provided for assessment and collection of moneys voted by school districts

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SECT. 8. The management of the schools and the custody and care of all school property in every town, shall devolve upon a superintending school committee consisting of three, five or seven members in each town, as the town may elect, who shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting of the town, and shall hold office for three years; provided, however, that in towns not having such committees when this act becomes a law, the committee then chosen, at their first meeting shall designate by lot a member or members to hold office for one, two and three years respectively, in manner as follows: if consisting of three, one for one year, one for two years, and one for three years; in consisting of five, one for one year, two for two years, and two for three years; if consisting of seven, two for one year, two for two years, and three for three years, and they shall certify such designation to the town clerk, to be by him recorded. Said committee shall have power to fill vacancies occurring during the interim between annual meetings, and shall annually elect one of its members supervisor of schools who shall be, ex-officio, secretary of the committee, shall make the annual enumeration of scholars required by law, and shall examine the schools and inquire into the regulations and discipline thereof and the proficiency of the scholars, for which purpose he shall visit each school at least twice each term. He shall make all reports and returns relating to the schools of the town which are now or may be required by law to be made by superintending school committees, and perform such other duties as said committee shall direct. Provided further, that in case the town so authorize, in lieu of the supervisor herein provided for, a superintendent may be elected who may or may not be a member of the committee. Said committee shall serve without pay, but the supervisor, or superintendent by them elected, shall receive for his services such sum as the town shall annually vote therefor, which sum shall in no case be less than two dollars per day for every day of actual service.

SECT. 9. All laws and parts of laws inconsistent herewith, except private and special laws authorizing towns, cities and incorporated districts to choose school committees other than those herein provided for, are hereby repealed.

SECT. 10. This act shall take effect on the first day of March eighteen hundred and ninety-four.

Management of schools and care of property shall devolve upon a superintending school committee.

—election and tenure of.

—vacancies, how filled.

—election of supervisor, powers and duties.

—superintendent may be elected in lieu of supervisor.

—compensation of supervisor or superintendent.

Inconsistent acts, repealed.

When act shall take effect.