

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1897

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820,
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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE.

1897.

Chapter 295.

An Act to amend Section three, Chapter eleven, of the Revised Statutes of eighteen hundred and eighty-three, as now amended, relating to discontinuing schools and conveying school children.

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

Sect. 1. Section three of chapter eleven of the revised statutes, as amended by sections two and three of chapter two hundred sixteen of the public laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-three, is hereby amended by striking out all of said section after the word "town" in the sixteenth line thereof, and adding 'but any public school failing to maintain an average attendance for any school year of at least eight pupils shall be and hereby is suspended, unless the town in which said school is located shall by vote instruct its superintending school committee to maintain said school. The superintendent of schools in each town shall procure the conveyance of all public school pupils residing in his town, to and from the nearest school, for the number of weeks for which schools are maintained in each year, when such pupil resides at such a distance from the said school as to render such conveyance necessary;' so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'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, but any public school failing to maintain an average attendance for any school year, of at least eight pupils, shall be and hereby is suspended, unless the town in which said school is located shall by vote instruct its superintending school committee to maintain said school. The superintendent of schools in each

Section 3, chapter 11, R. S., as amended by chapter 216, laws, 1893, further amended.

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.

CHAP. 296

—shall procure conveyance for scholars.

town shall procure the conveyance of all public school pupils residing in his town, to and from the nearest suitable school, for the number of weeks for which schools are maintained in each year, when such pupils reside at such a distance from the said school as to render such conveyance necessary.'

Inconsistent acts, repealed.

Sect. 2. All acts and parts of acts, inconsistent with this act, are hereby repealed.

Approved March 26, 1897.

Chapter 296.

An Act relating to the employment of Superintendents of Schools.

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

Two or more towns may unite in the employment of a superintendent of schools.

Sect. 1. On and after July first, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, the school committees of two or more towns, having under their care and custody an aggregate of not less than twenty-five or more than fifty schools, may unite in the employment of a superintendent of schools, provided they have been so authorized by a vote of their towns at the regular town meetings, or special town meetings called for that purpose.

School committees of such towns, shall form a joint committee.

—shall meet annually.

—choose chairman and secretary.

—shall choose superintendent of schools.

—duties of joint committee.

Sect. 2. The school committees of the towns comprising a union shall form a joint committee, and for the purposes of this act said joint committee shall be held to be the agents of each town comprising the union. Said joint committee shall meet annually at a day and place agreed upon by the chairman of the committees of the several towns comprising the union, and shall organize by the choice of a chairman and a secretary. They shall determine the relative amount of service to be performed by the superintendent in each town, fix his salary, apportion the amounts thereof to be paid by the several towns, which amount shall be certified to the treasurers of said towns respectively; provided that the amounts so certified shall be in proportion to the amount of service performed in the several towns. They shall choose by ballot a superintendent of schools, in which choice the committee of each town shall have a vote proportional to the town's share of the expenditure for the superintendent's salary.

Towns may provide for

Sect. 3. Whenever the chairman and secretary of said joint committee shall certify under oath to the state superintendent