

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

Eighty-eighth and Eighty-ninth
Legislatures

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

From April 24, 1937 to April 21, 1939

AND

MISCELLANEOUS STATE PAPERS

Published by the Secretary of State, in conjunction
with the Revisor of Statutes in accordance with the
Resolves of the Legislature approved June 28, 1820,
March 18, 1840, March 16, 1842 and Acts approved
August 6, 1930 and April 2, 1931.

KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE
1939

PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Eighty-ninth Legislature

1939

Chapter 278

AN ACT to Provide Moral Instruction for Children in Connection with the Public Schools.

Whereas, one of the 1st requisites of an harmonious, contented and prosperous state depends upon religious tolerance and understanding; and

Whereas, the civil and religious liberties which are inherently part of the American Constitutional system have been best secured and furthered by providing moral instruction for pupils in connection with the public schools of this state; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. School committee may provide for moral instruction. The school committee of each city or town is hereby authorized and empowered to provide for the moral instruction of pupils subject to the jurisdiction of such committee in the manner in this act provided.

Sec. 2. Survey of religious affiliation may be made. The school committee of each city or town may authorize and complete a survey of the religious affiliations of all pupils attending the public schools within such city or town, and ascertain those pupils who desire, and have the consent of parent or guardian for moral instruction. On a day in each week, to be fixed by the board, it may excuse such pupils for at least 1 hour, for the purpose of attending their respective places of worship, or some other suitable place, there to receive moral instruction in accordance with the religious faith of said pupils.

Sec. 3. Rules and regulations. Each school committee is authorized to adopt rules and regulations for carrying into effect the provisions of this act and to make such arrangement with the respective persons in charge of the several denominations for the giving of the aforesaid moral instruction.

Sec. 4. Credit for time spent at places of worship. Pupils attending their several places of worship for moral instruction therein at the time specified and for the period fixed shall be credited with the time so spent as if such pupils had been in actual attendance at school.

Sec. 5. Children to remain in school or be present at place of worship. Any child which, for any reason fails to receive the aforesaid moral instruction, shall remain in school during the period when such instruction is being given and herein provided, but such child shall not receive any educational advantage over children receiving said instruction.

Sec. 6. Expense. The aforesaid moral instruction shall be given with-

out expense to any city or town, the pupils of which receive such instruction, and no city or town, or the school committee thereof, shall incur any expense for such instruction beyond the cost of the original survey, hereinbefore mentioned.

Sec. 7. Intent of act. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that this act shall be permissive, and not mandatory.

Approved April 20, 1939.

Chapter 279

AN ACT Relating to Clerk Hire in Certain Counties.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 125, § 46, amended. The paragraphs of section 46 of chapter 125 of the revised statutes, as amended, insofar as they relate to Hancock county, Lincoln county, Somerset county and York county, are hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Hancock county: for clerks in the office of register of deeds, \$1500; for clerks in the office of register of probate, ~~seven hundred eighty dollars~~ \$1560; for clerks in the office of clerk of courts, ~~seven hundred eighty dollars~~ \$1092.'

'Lincoln county: for clerks in the office of register of deeds, \$800, and such additional sum not exceeding \$300, when necessary, subject to the approval of the county commissioners; for clerks in the office of register of probate, \$160; for clerks in the office of clerk of courts, \$200.'

'Somerset county: for clerks in the office of register of deeds, \$1500; for clerks in the office of register of probate, ~~five hundred dollars~~ \$1000; for clerks in the office of clerk of courts, ~~ten hundred forty dollars~~ \$1540.'

'York county: for clerks in the office of register of deeds, ~~three thousand dollars~~ \$4000; for clerks in the office of register of probate, \$2080; for clerks in the office of clerk of courts, \$1750.

(Provided, however, that the changes in the provisions for York county shall be effective for 2 years only from the effective date of this act.)'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 125, § 44, amended. The 20th line of section 44 of chapter 125 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows: 'Washington, \$1350; for clerk hire, \$300.'

Approved April 20, 1939.