

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES
AS PASSED BY THE
Eighty-ninth and Ninetieth
Legislatures

OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

From April 21, 1939 to April 26, 1941
AND MISCELLANEOUS STATE PAPERS

Published by 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
1941

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PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Ninetieth Legislature

1941

CHAP. 233

4 years of college, on an educational basis with definite financial aid, the commissioner of education, with the approval of the governor and council, is authorized to issue to such academies as come within the provision set up by the statutes, and in addition to the provisions above stated, and in the same manner, funds as follows: academies with an enrolment of from 20 to 40 pupils, \$20 per capita; 41 to 60 pupils, \$18 per capita; 61 to 80 pupils, \$16 per capita; 81 to 100 pupils, \$14 per capita; 101 to 150 pupils, \$12 per capita; 151 to 200 pupils, \$10 per capita; and over 200 pupils \$5 per capita, provided, when a slight increase in attendance would cause an institution to receive a reduced amount, the commissioner of education shall have authority to make an adjustment. In addition to the sums required for distribution on the above provision, the commissioner of education shall issue such amounts and to such institutions as may be directed by the legislature, but in no case shall the amounts distributed to the academies of the state, automatically or by resolve, exceed the amount provided herein, and there shall be appropriated annually ~~\$705,000~~ \$90,000 to be deducted from the state school fund. It shall be the duty of the commissioner of education to furnish to the education committee of the legislature biennially, and at such times as it may require, a statement of the sums necessary for distribution under the provisions of this subdivision so that the legislature may know the amount available as an adjustment fund within the sum provided. Provided, the restrictions of sections 107, 108, 109, and 110 shall not apply to the distribution of the per capita allowances or the adjustment fund; provided, further, that only those academies that received state aid under the provisions of chapter 247 of the resolves of 1927 shall be eligible to share in the per capita allowance. Institutions having incomes of over ~~\$2500~~ \$3500 from invested funds shall not receive per capita allowance but may share in the adjustment fund.'

Approved April 14, 1941

Chapter 233

AN ACT Concerning Declaratory Judgments and Decrees and to Make Uniform the Law Relating Thereto.

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

Sec. 1. Scope. Courts of record within their respective jurisdictions shall have power to declare rights, status, and other legal relations whether or not further relief is or could be claimed. No action or proceeding shall be open to objection on the ground that a declaratory judgment or decree

is prayed for. The declaration may be either affirmative or negative in form and effect; and such declarations shall have the force and effect of a final judgment or decree.

Sec. 2. Power to construe, etc. Any person interested under a deed, will, written contract or other writings constituting a contract, or whose rights, status or other legal relations are affected by a statute, municipal ordinance, contract or franchise, may have determined any question of construction or validity arising under the instrument, statute, ordinance, contract, or franchise and obtain a declaration of rights, status or other legal relations thereunder.

Sec. 3. Before breach. A contract may be construed either before or after there has been a breach thereof.

Sec. 4. Executor, etc. Any person interested as or through an executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or other fiduciary, creditor, devisee, legatee, heir, next of kin, or cestui que trust, in the administration of a trust, or of the estate of a decedent, an infant, lunatic, or insolvent, may have a declaration of rights or legal relations in respect thereto:

(a) To ascertain any class of creditors, devisees, legatees, heirs, next of kin or others; or

(b) To direct the executors, administrators, or trustees to do or abstain from doing any particular act in their fiduciary capacity; or

(c) To determine any question arising in the administration of the estate or trust, including questions of construction of wills and other writings.

Sec. 5. Enumeration not exclusive. The enumeration in sections 2, 3, and 4 does not limit or restrict the exercise of the general powers conferred in section 1, in any proceeding where declaratory relief is sought, in which a judgment or decree will terminate the controversy or remove an uncertainty.

Sec. 6. Discretionary. The court may refuse to render or enter a declaratory judgment or decree where such judgment or decree, if rendered or entered, would not terminate the uncertainty or controversy giving rise to the proceeding.

Sec. 7. Review. All orders, judgments and decrees under this act may be reviewed as other orders, judgments and decrees.

Sec. 8. Supplemental relief. Further relief based on a declaratory judgment or decree may be granted whenever necessary or proper. The application therefor shall be by petition to a court having jurisdiction to

CHAP. 233

grant the relief. If the application be deemed sufficient, the court shall, on reasonable notice, require any adverse party whose rights have been adjudicated by the declaratory judgment or decree, to show cause why further relief should not be granted forthwith.

Sec. 9. Jury trial. When a proceeding under this act involves the determination of an issue of fact, such issue may be tried and determined in the same manner as issues of fact are tried and determined in other civil actions in the court in which the proceeding is pending.

Sec. 10. Costs. In any proceeding under this act the court may make such award of costs as may seem equitable and just.

Sec. 11. Parties. When declaratory relief is sought, all persons shall be made parties who have or claim any interest which would be affected by the declaration, and no declaration shall prejudice the rights of persons not parties to the proceeding. In any proceeding which involves the validity of a municipal ordinance or franchise, such municipality shall be made a party, and shall be entitled to be heard, and if the statute, ordinance or franchise is alleged to be unconstitutional, the attorney general of the state shall also be served with a copy of the proceeding and be entitled to be heard.

Sec. 12. Construction. This act is declared to be remedial; its purpose is to settle and to afford relief from uncertainty and insecurity with respect to rights, status and other legal relations; and is to be liberally construed and administered.

Sec. 13. Words construed. The word "person" wherever used in this act, shall be construed to mean any person, partnership, joint stock company, unincorporated association, or society, or municipal or other corporation of any character whatsoever.

Sec. 14. Provisions severable. The several sections and provisions of this act except sections 1 and 2, are hereby declared independent and severable, and the invalidity, if any, of any part or feature thereof shall not affect or render the remainder of the act invalid or inoperative.

Sec. 15. Uniformity of interpretation. This act shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it, and to harmonize, as far as possible, with federal laws and regulations on the subject of declaratory judgments and decrees.

Sec. 16. Short title. This act may be cited as the "Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act."