MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

Ninety-fourth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Ninety-fourth Legislature

1949

CHAP. 437

PUBLIC LAWS, 1949

'Sec. 13-A. Appointment of foresters. The forest commissioner shall appoint foresters in Maine to give technical guidance and service to small woodland owners and processors to bring about improvement in the growing, harvesting, marketing and utilization of forest products. All appointed foresters shall hold office under the rules of the personnel board; they shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties and a certificate thereof shall be returned and filed in the office of the forest commissioner; they shall receive such compensation as determined by the forest commissioner and the personnel board, with allowance for actual necessary expenses of travel.'

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund the sum of \$5,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950 and the sum of \$5,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1951 to carry out the provisions of this act.

Effective August 6, 1949

Chapter 437

AN ACT to Provide Financial Assistance to Cities and Towns in the Construction of School Buildings.

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

R. S., c. 37, §§ 211-B-211-J, additional. Chapter 37 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto 9 new sections to be numbered 211-B to 211-J, inclusive, to read as follows:

'School Construction

Sec. 211-B. Purposes; school building assistance commission. To promote the construction of adequate school plants and the establishment of consolidated and community schools, to insure safe and functional plant facilities for the public schools, and to assist cities, towns, school districts and community school districts in meeting the cost thereof, there is hereby created in the department of education but not subject to its control, a commission, to be known as the school building commission and hereafter in sections 211-B to 211-I, inclusive, called the "commission".

Sec. 211-C. Membership terms; compensation, etc. Said commission shall consist of 7 members, residents of the state. Four of said members, one of whom shall be a public school administrator, shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the council. One shall serve

for 1 year, one for 2 years, one for 3 years and one for 4 years; and thereafter each member shall serve for a term of 4 years. The remaining membership shall include the chairman of the education committee of the legislature; the executive secretary of the Maine municipal association and the commissioner of education who shall act as executive secretary for the commission. The terms of the latter 3 members shall terminate co-incidental with the expiration of their terms of office in their respective organizations. Vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms. The commission shall organize by electing a chairman at its 1st meeting and annually thereafter at the 1st meeting of the fiscal year.

The action of a majority shall constitute action by the commission; and, whenever any action is required to be in writing, such writing shall be sufficient when signed by a majority of the members. Each member of the commission shall receive his expenses actually and necessarily incurred by him in the performance of his duties and \$10 per day as compensation.

Sec. 211-D. Powers and duties. The powers and duties of the commission shall be, generally, to encourage and foster the development of consolidated and community public schools in and among the cities and towns of the state; to administer the provisions of sections 211-B to 211-J, inclusive, relative to grants to cities, towns, school districts and community school districts for the development of adequate school facilities; to authorize the payment of grants under the provisions of the following sections, and to establish rules and regulations with respect thereto including financial controls.

Sec. 211-E. Meetings of commission quarterly, special meetings provided. The commission shall hold quarterly meetings for the transaction of its business, however, special meetings may be held as often as may be necessary on call of the executive secretary.

Sec. 211-F. Application for assistance; plans, etc. Any city, town, school district or community school district may apply to the commission for a school construction grant to meet in part the cost of any approved school project undertaken since January 1, 1946 or the service of any debt incurred therefor. Such application shall be made on a form prescribed by the commission and shall be accompanied by plans and specifications and such other information as may be required by the commission. Applications for projects initiated after the effective date of sections 211-B to 211-J, inclusive, shall be filed with said commission before construction is undertaken.

Sec. 211-G. Granting of aid; determination of amount; procedure. Upon receipt of an application under the provisions of section 211-F, the

PUBLIC LAWS, 1949

commission shall examine such application and any facts, estimates or other information relative thereto. If, after such examination, the commission, exercising the judgment of reasonable persons, determines that the proposed construction is in the best interests of the city, town, school district or community school district and state, and that such proposed construction should be undertaken, the commission shall determine an approved cost.

Sec. 211-H. Notice of approval or rejection; estimate of allocation. Within a reasonable time after receipt of an application as provided in section 211-F, the commission shall notify such city, town, school district or community school district of its approval or rejection thereof and, in the event of rejection, the reasons therefor. Notice of approval hereunder shall be accompanied by a statement of the approved costs as determined by the commission and an estimate of the amount of school construction aid which such city, town, school district or community school district may anticipate under the provisions of the following section.

Sec. 211-I. Aid to municipalities and districts, how determined. The total potential allocation for any approved school project in any city, town, school district or community school district shall be from 15% to 50% of the approved cost of such project and determined by computing 1/4 of the approved cost of the project multiplied by the state valuation per pupil in the state divided by the valuation per resident pupil as reported in the latest annual report required under the provisions of section 63.

The total potential allocation for any approved school project in any community school district shall be from 15% to 50% of the approved cost of such project and determined by computing 1/3 of the approved cost of the project multiplied by the state valuation per pupil in the state divided by the valuation per resident pupil in participating towns comprising such district.

The commission shall certify, not later than June 30 of each year, to the controller and the treasurer of state shall pay to the several cities, towns, school districts, and community school districts, that percentage of the total allocations previously established, which will distribute equitably and with due regard for local financing exigencies the annual appropriation therefor.

The commission is empowered to make special grants to communities extending school opportunities to children in unorganized territories under such terms and conditions as may be determined by said commission.

Sec. 211-J. Commission may accept funds from any source. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of sections 211-B to 211-J, inclusive,

PUBLIC LAWS, 1949

CHAP, 438

said commission shall be authorized to receive grants, moneys and credits from any federal government agency or from any other source.

Such funds obtained by said commission shall be distributed to qualifying cities, towns, school districts or community school districts, as provided in section 2II-I.'

Effective August 6, 1949

Chapter 438

AN ACT Providing for the Expenses of the Banking Department.

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

- Sec. 1. R. S., c. 55, § 2, repealed and replaced. Section 2 of chapter 55 of the revised statutes, as amended by section 10 of chapter 293; section 19 of chapter 297; section 53 of chapter 378, all of the public laws of 1945, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:
- 'Sec. 2. Deputy bank commissioner; examiners, etc.; expenses, how charged; penalty for bank's failure to pay its portion. The bank commissioner may employ, subject to the provisions of the personnel law, a deputy bank commissioner and as many examiners, assistant examiners and clerks as the business of the office may require. The deputy bank commissioner shall perform the duties of the commissioner whenever the latter shall be absent from the state, or whenever he shall be directed by the commissioner, or whenever there shall be a vacancy in the office of commissioner. The deputy bank commissioner and all examiners and assistant examiners shall receive their actual expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.

Every savings bank, institution for savings and trust company incorporated under the laws of this state shall semi-annually as of the last Saturdays of March and September in each year make a return signed by the treasurer of such institution of the average amount of its deposits, excluding deposits of other banking and savings institutions, for the 6 months period ending on each of said days. Such returns shall be made to the state tax assessor on or before the 1st Saturdays of April and October in each year. To provide for the expenses of the banking department, he shall assess semi-annually each such institution at the annual rate of 30c for each \$1,000 of such average deposits. For the period ending the last Saturday