

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 3
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Sec.

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§ 101. Free public libraries established in towns

Any town may establish a free public library therein for the use of its inhabitants and provide suitable rooms therefor under such regulation for its government as the inhabitants from time to time prescribe, and may levy and assess a tax and make appropriation therefrom for the foundation and commencement of such library and for its maintenance and increase annually. Any town in which there is a public library may establish and maintain under the same general management and control such branches of the same as the convenience and wants of its citizens seem to demand.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 29.

§ 102. Free public libraries established in village corporations

Any village corporation located in a town where no free library exists may establish a library within its limits for the free use of all its inhabitants and may levy and assess a corporate tax and make appropriation therefrom for its maintenance and increase annually. Village libraries established under this section shall be subject to all the duties and entitled to all the privileges prescribed by the laws relating to free public libraries in towns.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 30.

§ 103. Free use of library in adjoining towns authorized

Any municipality may raise and appropriate annually a sum of money for the purpose of securing to its inhabitants free use of a library located in an adjoining municipality.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 31; 1955, c. 185, § 12.

§ 104. Towns uniting for libraries

Two or more towns may unite in establishing and maintaining a free public library with branches thereof in each town for the free use of all the inhabitants of said towns and may each raise and make appropriation for that purpose annually. Such towns shall be subject to all duties and entitled to all the benefits prescribed by the laws relating to free libraries.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 32.

§ 105. State aid for municipalities maintaining free public libraries

The officers of any municipality may certify to the State Librarian annually, before the first day of May, the amount of money appropriated and expended by said municipality during the preceding year for the benefit of a free public library established therein, or for the free use of a library in an adjoining town. Upon such certification the State Librarian, if satisfied with the quality of service performed by such library, shall approve for payment to such municipality an amount based on the following schedule:

On appropriations from \$200 to \$475, 10%;

On appropriations from \$476 to \$1,900, 7%;

On appropriations from \$1,901 to \$5,000, 4%.

No municipality shall receive annually less than \$20 nor more than \$200, except as otherwise provided. The state aid money must be spent for the purchase of books to be placed in said library.

If the appropriations of 2 or more towns for the use of the same library in an adjoining town amount to the sum of \$200 or more, the State Librarian may make payment of state aid on the same basis and for the same purpose prescribed above. Such payment shall be made to the municipality where the library is situated.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 33; 1955, c. 185, § 13.

§ 106. Libraries controlled by associations assisted by towns

Any town or city in which there is a library owned or controlled by a corporation or association or by trustees may levy and assess a tax and make appropriation therefrom annually to procure from such library the free use of its books for all the inhabitants of the town or city, under such restrictions and regulations as shall insure the safety and good usage of the books. Such library shall then be considered a free public library within the meaning of this chapter and said town or city shall be entitled to the benefits of section 105.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 34; 1955, c. 185, § 14.

§ 107. Custody of public documents; list of books purchased

The officers of every free public library, on or before the first day of May of each year, shall send to the librarian of the State Library a report containing a list of all books and documents purchased with the state stipend for the preceding year. The aid from the State, provided by section 105, shall be withheld from any city, town or village corporation until the report required to be made shall have been received by the librarian of the State Library; and the same shall be withheld unless said report shall show that the laws and Maine Reports furnished by the State are kept constantly in said library for the free use and benefit of all the citizens.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 35; 1955, c. 185, § 15.

§ 108. Donation of books and gifts for foundation of library

Whenever a municipality shall purchase books to aid in the establishment of a free public library, the State Librarian shall make a gift of money or new books to such library; the gift to equal 50% of the value of the books purchased by said municipality for said purpose, and in no instance to exceed \$100.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 36.

§ 109. Gifts and devises to towns

Any town, as such, may receive, hold and manage devises, bequests or gifts for the establishment, increase or maintenance of a public library therein; and may accept by vote of the legal voters thereof any land or land and buildings thereon, to be used as a public library or art gallery, or both combined. When any plantation is incorporated into a town such gifts and the proceeds thereof fully vest in such town.

R.S.1954, c. 42, § 37.