

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Special Sessions

OF THE

Ninety-Eighth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

October 28, 1957

January 13, 1958

May 6, 1958

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL

AUGUSTA, MAINE

have one town that I represent that has their money already to build a schoolhouse and heavens knows they need it bad enough.

Perhaps I should vote right now for this, but with all of these bugs in it and we know they are there, I don't think there would be any harm or it would make them feel too awful bad if they had to wait eleven months or a little mite longer to build that schoolhouse. I do not feel that a special session is the place to go over anything quite so serious and quite so deeply affecting all of the people of our state as this Sinclair Bill does. It is not the time for it to be finally passed. For that reason I am going to support the motion of the gentleman from Friendship.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Fuller.

Mr. FULLER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would like to agree with my friend from Bowdoinham, Mr. Curtis, one hundred per cent. That is exactly the way we felt, that this special session was no place to make changes in the Sinclair Bill and that is exactly what we didn't do. I can say to you people right here that the philosophy of the Sinclair Bill hasn't been changed one iota and we felt that that was the way that you wanted it and that is why we did not change it. The only thing that has been changed is the language in some cases to make it number one, constitutional, and number two, make it workable, and those are the two things that we felt we were charged with and we did our best to do those things.

The SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question? The question before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Friendship, Mr. Winchenpaw, that the Report and Bill "An Act relating to Educational Aid and to Clarify the Procedure of the Reorganization of School Administrative Units". Senate Paper 658, Legislative Document 1637, be referred to the next legislature. A division has been requested.

Will those who favor the motion to refer the Report and the Bill to the next legislature please rise and

remain standing until the monitors have made and returned the count.

A division of the House was had.

Seven having voted in the affirmative and one hundred and one having voted in the negative, the motion did not prevail.

Thereupon, the "Ought to pass" Report as amended by Committee Amendment "A" was accepted in concurrence and the Bill read twice.

Committee Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S. P. 658, L. D. 1637, Bill, "An Act Relating to Educational Aid and to Clarify the Procedure of the Reorganization of School Administrative Units."

Amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. III-F" of section I by inserting at the end of the 3rd paragraph from the end the following underlined sentence: 'The creation of any such community school district and all proceedings taken in connection with the issuance of such outstanding indebtedness are hereby ratified, validated and confirmed.'

Further amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. III-H" of section I by adding at the end thereof the following underlined paragraphs:

'Any municipality within any School Administrative District that has taken over the operation of the public schools may raise the appropriate moneys and transfer the same by vote of the municipality to the School Administrative District solely for capital outlay purposes.

Any municipality within the confines of an area which has applied to the School District Commission to be approved as a School Administrative District may raise and appropriate money by proper vote of the town to be transferred to the proposed School Administrative District, if and when said district takes over the operation of the public school within its jurisdiction. Said moneys shall be used only for capital outlay purposes. If the town shall vote to make such a transfer, it shall not have the right to rescind such vote until 9 months after said vote or until the proposed School Administrative Dis-

trict fails of approval either by the School District Commission or by the residents in the several towns within the proposed School Administrative District, whichever is earlier.'

Further amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. III-L" of section I by striking out the underlined word "inhabitants" in the 13th line from the end and inserting in place thereof the underlined word 'residents.'

Further amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. III-R" of section I by striking out the underlined word "dates" in the 12th line and inserting in place thereof the underlined word 'date.'

Further amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. III-S" of section I by inserting after the underlined word "conspicuous" in the 2nd line of paragraph D of subsection II of said section the underlined word 'public.'

Further amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. III-T" of section I by inserting after the underlined word and punctuation "Authority," in the 5th line the following underlined words and punctuation: 'or to authorize the school directors to contract for the schooling of secondary pupils.'

Further amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. III-T" of section I by adding at the end of subsection III the following underlined paragraph D:

'D. When a meeting is called for the purpose of authorizing the school directors to contract for the schooling of secondary pupils, the article to be inserted in all warrants shall be as follows:

"Shall the school directors of School Administrative District No. be authorized to contract in the name of the name of the district with (Name of Administrative Unit or Academy) for the schooling of secondary pupils for a term of years.

Yes No

Further amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. III-E" of section I by adding at the end thereof the following underlined paragraph:

'The School District Commission may in addition to the power conferred in the preceding paragraph approve the formation of a School Administrative District from any community school district existing on April 1, 1957, which has been formed under the general law or by special legislative charter and was operating a school on April 1, 1957, which offered a program of education in grades 9 through 12 along with any other municipality or municipalities which desire to join with the area within any existing community school district, irrespective of the number of resident pupils educated at public expense in grades 9 through 12 as indicated in the last return made to the Commissioner of Education under section 71.'

Further amend said bill in that part designated "Sec. 237-D" of section I by striking out the underlined words **Per Pupil** found in the heading to Table I so that it now reads **Foundation Program Allowances.**

The SPEAKER: Is it now the pleasure of the House that Committee Amendment "A" shall be adopted?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bowdoinham, Mr. Curtis.

Mr. CURTIS: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen: As I just said, I believe in the Sinclair Bill; I believe in the fundamentals that it tries to—that it sits on and the remedies that it tries to put into effect in our system, our education system in the State of Maine. Now as I understand this bill, and I don't pretend that I understand it thoroughly, but I have made considerable study. In fact I have been studying all summer on it and been in consultation with the Department of Education several times, why, the fundamental of this bill was to help the smaller areas who are not able to help themselves by giving their children the proper education. In other words, why should a child being born in Bowdoin, a small town of two hundred and ninety-six thousand valuation with a tax rate of one hundred and four, why shouldn't they have the same opportunities for education as someone who is born in Portland or in some of