

Chapter XC, Acts of Tennessee, 1875

An Act to provide for the establishment, and to prescribe rules for the Government of a Normal School, or Schools, in the State of Tennessee, in connection with the Public School System Thereof.

Whereas, An adequate supply of professionally educated Teachers is a necessity to the maintenance of an efficient system of Public Schools; and

Whereas, All proper and needed facilities for this purpose should be afforded by the State to its citizens; and

Whereas, Suitable buildings and grounds have been offered for a Normal School or Schools in various localities in the different divisions of the State; therefore

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee. That the establishment of a Normal School or Schools is hereby authorized to be effected by the Board of Education, hereinafter provided for. The said Normal School or Schools shall be made in every respect first-class institutions for the professional education of teachers, and that the most approved methods of instruction shall be adopted, and none but teachers experienced and skilled shall be employed to take charge of them.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That said State Board of Education shall, at as early a date as may in their judgment be practicable, locate and make arrangements for opening such Normal School or Schools, furnishing them, adopting a course of study, employing teachers and other officers.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted. That in the location of said Normal School or Schools the State Board of Education shall give preference to such locality, accessible to all parts of the State, as shall offer, gratuitously, the most suitable grounds and buildings for the establishment of the same: Provided, that nothing in this Act shall be so construed as to authorize the expenditure of money from the State Treasury, or school funds of the State.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That said State Board of Education may receive contributions of money from the Trustees of the Peabody Education Fund, or donations of property or funds from any other sources, for the benefit of this enterprise, which they shall in good faith dispose and disburse, in accordance with the conditions of the donations.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted, That the Trustees of Colleges, Universities or educational institutions, shall have power to give the use of their property to the State Board of Education for the benefit of Normal Schools.

Sec. 6. Be it further enacted, That no pupil shall be admitted into said schools who is under sixteen or over thirty years of age, and who shall not have undergone satisfactorily such examination as may be prescribed by the State Board of Education. Those already engaged in teaching may enter said Normal School or Schools as pupils upon conditions fixed by the State Board of Education.

Sec. 7. Be it further enacted, That pupils of the Public Schools may be recommended for admission into said Normal School or Schools by the County Superintendent, on consultation with the Directors of the School Districts of his county, and in cities by the Superintendents of Public Schools, and such pupils so recommended, and who pass a satisfactory examination, shall have precedence over all other applicants.

Sec. 8. Be it further enacted, That diplomas shall be granted to those who honorably complete the course of study presented in said schools; and the possession of said diploma shall exempt the holder thereof from the examination prescribed as a condition precedent to employment in the public schools of the State; any such graduate being eligible as a teacher in any county of the State.

Sec. 9. Be it further enacted, that the same registers, records and reports, which are prescribed in the State School Law for the public schools, or which may be ordered by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall be kept by the officers, and teachers of said Normal Schools; and regular reports shall be made directly to the State Superintendent, at the times and in the manner required by law for other public schools, or at such other time as he may require.

Sec. 10. Be it further enacted, that the State Board of Education shall keep such Normal Schools as may be established, for white and colored pupils, entirely distinct and separate: Provided, that the provisions therein for training and improvement, shall be impartially proportioned to the demands of each.

Sec. 11. Be it further enacted, That the salaries of principals, teachers and other officers of said Normal Schools, and all other expenditures, shall be determined by the State Board of Education, and the disbursements shall be made by the Treasurer of the Board, upon its order.

Sec. 12. Be it further enacted, That the State Board of Education shall elect its own Treasurer and Secretary, and prescribe their compensation.

Sec. 13. Be it further enacted, That the Governor of the State shall appoint a State Board of Education to consist of six members; two of whom shall be appointed for six years, two for four years, and two for two years, and after the expiration of their first terms of office, their successors shall be appointed for six years; the Governor of the State shall be ex officio a member and President of said Board.

Sec. 14. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of said Board of Education to report through the Superintendent to the regular meeting of the General Assembly, the operations of the Board, the condition and progress of Normal Schools with such suggestions as they may deem advisable for the improvement of Normal and Public Schools.

Sec. 15. Be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed March 23, 1875

Lewis Bond
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Thomas H. Paine
Speaker of the Senate

Approved March 23, 1875

James D. Porter
Governor.