

[No. 197, A.]

[Published April 30, 1887.]

## CHAPTER 297.

AN ACT relating to the township system of school government, and to amend sections 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 529, 534, 535, 537, 539, 541, 544, 545, 547, 548 and 552, of chapter 27, of the revised statutes, entitled, "of common schools."

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Sections 521, 522, 523, 524, 525 and 526, of chapter 27, of the revised statutes, are hereby amended to read as follows: Section 521. The said board shall hold two regular meetings in each year. The first regular meeting shall be designated the annual meeting, shall occur upon the first Monday in October in each year, and be held at, or as near as may be, the place where the last annual election was held. The second regular meeting shall be designated the semi-annual meeting, shall occur on the third Monday in March in each year, and be held at such place as the board may designate by rule, or at the preceding annual meeting. The hour of meeting shall be ten o'clock in the forenoon. Section 522. Special meetings may be called by the secretary, or in his absence or disability, by the president, upon the application of one-third of the members of the board. Such meetings shall be called by notifying each member of the board personally, or by leaving a written notice at his place of residence or business, stating the time, place and objects of the meeting, at least five days before the time appointed therefor. The members of the board of school directors shall be re-imbursed for expenses actually and necessarily incurred in attending all meetings of the board, bills for which shall be audited by the board. Section 523. The members of the board of school directors, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum, assembled at the first and each succeeding annual meeting, shall elect from their number a president and a vice-president; also a secretary, who may or may not be one of their

Amending section 521, R. S.

Amending section 522, R. S.

Amending section 523, R. S.

number, but who shall be a resident of the town to which the board belongs. Such secretary shall receive a compensation for services rendered, at not less than two nor more than three dollars per day, and he shall present a statement of his services rendered at the annual meeting of the board. Vacancies in either of the offices herein provided for may be filled at any special meeting of the board, the notice for which shall state the object of the meeting to be to fill the vacancy existing, or at any semi-annual meeting, and persons elected to fill any vacancy shall hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Amending section 524, R. S.

Section 524. The board of school directors of each town shall have power, out of the funds provided by the town for that purpose, to purchase or hire sites, houses and rooms for the use of schools, and to fence and improve the same, as they may deem proper, and upon such sites to build, enlarge, alter, improve and repair school-houses, out-houses, or any other building for school purposes, as they may deem advisable; and also, whenever in the opinion of the board any school-house or school-house site is no longer needed for school purposes, the same may be sold and conveyed in the corporate name of the board, such conveyance to be executed by the president and secretary of the board. Section 525.

Amending section 525, R. S.

Said board shall, at the regular meeting in October, estimate and determine the amount of money which will be necessary for the support of schools, and for the building and repairing of school-houses, in the town, for the year beginning on the first day of July next following. Section 526.

Amending section 526, R. S.

Said board shall establish and maintain such and so many schools in the several subdistricts under their charge as they may deem requisite and expedient; provided, that there shall be at least one common school in each subdistrict, and that all such schools shall be kept each year not less than six months. The board shall have in all respects, the supervision and management of all the schools, with full power to adopt, enforce, modify and repeal from time to time, all rules and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of this state, necessary for their organization, gradation and control, and for the instruction given by them in the different branches of education taught therein,

and to establish and enforce proper penalties for the violation of such rules.

SECTION 2. Section 529, of chapter 27, of the revised statutes, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 529. The executive committee shall employ so many qualified teachers as they shall deem necessary to give instruction in all the schools under the charge of the board. Each contract shall be in writing, shall be signed by the teacher and by the president and secretary, shall specify the wages per week, month or year, agreed upon by the parties, and when completed shall be filed in the office of the secretary of the town board of school directors, with a copy of the teacher's certificate attached thereto.

Amending section 529, R. S.

SECTION 3. Sections 534 and 535, of chapter 27, of the revised statutes are hereby amended, so as to read as follows: Section 534. It shall be the duty of the secretary, at least five days before the annual town meeting or election, each year to make to the board of supervisors of the town a written statement, showing the receipts of money for school purposes from all sources, and the disbursements of the same, during the year ending on the last day of June preceding, in which statement shall be given under separate heads:

Amending section 534, R. S.

1. The amount in the treasury at the beginning of the year.
2. Amount received from the state fund.
3. Amount collected by town treasurer.
4. Amount received from all other sources.
5. The manner in which such sums have been expended, specifying the amount paid under each head of expenditure.
6. Amount remaining in the treasury.
7. Amount of indebtedness of the township district, and when and how payable.

The secretary shall accompany the above statement with estimates of the board of the amount necessary for the support of schools during the year beginning on the first day of July next following, specifying the sums needed, under the following heads:

1. Amount for teachers' wages.
2. Amount for school-house sites, and for building, hiring or purchasing school-houses.
3. Amount for fuel.
4. Amount for incidental expenses, including

repairs, maps, globes, charts, and for all needful schoolroom appurtenances.

Amending section 535, R. S.

5. An amount not to exceed one hundred dollars to purchase library books. Section 535. It shall be the duty of the town board of supervisors of each town in the state to present the statements and estimates above mentioned to the electors of the town at the annual town meeting or election, and the items of said estimates shall be passed upon separately by a vote of the electors present; but upon motion they may be increased or diminished; and if, for any reason, money for the support of schools shall not be voted at the annual town meeting, or a sufficient amount shall not then be voted, the supervisors shall present the estimates before mentioned to the electors, at the general election in the fall, for a vote thereon.

Amending section 537, R. S.

SECTION 4. Section 537, of chapter 27, of the revised statutes, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 537. It shall be the duty of the secretary, on or before the fifteenth day of August in each year, to make and transmit to the county superintendent a report in writing, bearing date on the 15th day of August in the year of its transmission, stating:

1. The whole number of subdistricts separately set off within the town, and the number of parts of joint subdistricts in which the school-houses belonging thereto are located in his town.

2. The subdistricts and parts of subdistricts from which reports shall have been made within the time limited for that purpose.

3. The length of time a school shall have been taught in each of said subdistricts or parts of districts by a qualified teacher.

4. The number of children taught in each, and the number of children over the age of four and under the age of twenty years residing in each, designating males and females separately.

5. The whole amount of money received in the town for school purposes, since the date of the last preceding report, setting forth separately the amount received from the state through the county treasurer, the amount levied by the county board, and the amount raised by the town at its annual town meeting or general election.

6. The manner in which said money has been

expended, and whether any or what part remains unexpended, with such other information as the state superintendent may from time to time require.

SECTION 5. Section 539, of chapter 27, of the revised statutes, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 539. If for any reason the electors of a town shall fail to vote an amount of money sufficient to maintain a school in each sub-district for the term of six months during the year ensuing, the secretary shall, on or before the third Monday of November of the year in which the electors shall fail to vote as aforesaid, certify to the town clerk the amount estimated by the board of directors necessary for teachers' wages, fuel, repair of school-houses, and incidental expenses, and the town clerk shall assess the aggregate sum thus certified upon all the taxable property of the town, in the assessment roll for that year, and the town treasurer shall collect the same as other taxes.

Amending section 539, R. S.

SECTION 6. Section 541, of chapter 27, of the revised statutes, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 541. The annual meeting of each subdistrict shall be held on the first Monday in July in each year. The time of such meeting shall be seven o'clock in the afternoon.

Amending section 541, R. S.

SECTION 7. Sections 544 and 545, of chapter 27, of the revised statutes, is (are) hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 544. The clerk of the subdistrict shall be a member of the town board of school directors, shall attend all meetings of the board, and shall carry out all lawful orders of the same having reference to the school-house of his district, or the school maintained therein. It shall be the duty of the subdistrict clerk, between the tenth and fifteenth days of July in each year, to make and transmit to the secretary of the town board of school directors a written report, dated on the tenth day of July of such year, signed by him and verified by his affidavit, showing:

Amending section 544, R. S.

1. The number of children, male and female, designated separately over the age of four and under the age of twenty years, residing in the district, and the names of their parents or other persons with whom such children resided respectively on the last day of June preceding.

2. The whole number of children, males and

females designated separately, between the ages of four and twenty years, taught in the district school during the year for which such report is made, by teachers duly qualified.

3. The number attending school during the year, under the age of four, and the number over the age of twenty years.

4. The whole time, in days, any common school has been taught in the district, including holidays, and the whole number of days, including holidays, such school has been taught by teachers qualified according to law.

5. The names of all teachers employed during the year, the number of days taught by each, including holidays, and the monthly wages paid to each; and the time allowed any teacher for attendance on any institute, for which no wages were deducted.

6. The kinds of books used in the school.

7. Such other facts and statistics in relation to the schools, public or private, in such district, as the state superintendent may from time to time require. The clerk of each joint subdistrict shall report to the secretary of the town board of school directors, or to the town clerk of each town, as the case may require, a part of which is embraced in such subdistrict, the number of children residing in such part, in the manner set forth in this section, and the remainder of the items specified in this section shall be embraced in the report made to the town in which the school-house is situated. Section 545. The subdistrict clerk shall give at least six days' notice of every annual meeting of the electors of his subdistrict, by posting notices therefor in four or more public places in the subdistrict, one of which notices shall be affixed to the outer door of the school-house if there be one in the subdistrict, and he shall act as secretary of all meetings when present.

Amending section 545, R. S.

Amending section 547, R. S.

SECTION 8. Sections 547 and 548, of chapter 27, of the revised statutes, are hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 547. When a subdistrict is composed of parts of two or more towns the board of directors of the town in which the school house is situated, shall have the entire control of said subdistrict, and shall maintain school therein as in other subdistricts; and the clerk of such joint subdistrict shall be a member of the

board of directors of said town. At the annual meeting in October, the board of directors shall calculate and determine the cost of maintaining the schools in said joint subdistrict, for the year ending on the last day of June preceding the meeting of the board, and the secretary shall certify such amount to the secretary of the board of each town, embraced in part in such joint subdistrict, together with the assessed valuation of said subdistrict, and each part thereof, as found in the assessment roll of the said town for that year; on the receipt of such certificate, the secretary of the board of directors of each of said towns shall draw an order on the treasurer of his town, in favor of the town in which the schoolhouse of said joint subdistrict is situated, for such a proportion of the whole cost of maintaining said school as aforesaid, as the assessed value of the property of his town, embraced in said joint subdistrict is to the whole valuation thereof; unless the proportion of such school district taxes to be assessed in each such town shall have been ascertained, as provided in section 471, in which case he shall draw his order for such proportion; and said order shall be paid out of any money in the hands of said treasurer, collected or received by him for the support of schools in his town. Section 548. In case either of the towns embraced in part in said joint subdistrict shall not have adopted the township system of school government, the certificate before mentioned shall be made to the clerk of said subdistrict, and it shall be his duty to incorporate the proportional sum mentioned in the preceding section in the returns of district taxes made by him to the town clerk of the town not having adopted such system, on the third Monday of November succeeding the receipt of said certificate; and the said sum shall be assessed and collected with the other taxes of that part of the joint subdistrict, and shall be paid over by the town treasurer collecting the same, to the treasurer of the town in which the schoolhouse of said joint subdistrict is situated.

Amending section 548, R. S.

SECTION 9. Section 552, of chapter 27, of the revised statutes, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 552. The legal voters of any town in the state may at any annual town meeting, or at any general election, vote upon the ques-

Amending section 552, R. S.

tion of township school government. Such voting shall be by ballot, and the ballots used shall have written or printed thereon the words, "township school government, yes," or the words, "township school government, no." A separate box shall be provided for the reception of said ballots, and the votes cast shall be counted, canvassed, and a record thereof made, as in case of other votes cast at such election; and if it shall appear that a majority of the ballots cast have written or printed thereon the words, "township school government, yes," then the provision of this chapter, providing for the township system, shall immediately become operative in such town, otherwise they shall have no force or effect therein. No vote shall be taken on the question of township school government in pursuance of this chapter unless notice thereof shall be given as hereinafter provided. The town clerk of any town, upon the petition in writing of any ten electors of said town, shall publish, by posting in three of the most public places in said town, a notice in writing that the question of township school government will be submitted to the electors of said town at the ensuing annual town meeting or general election. Such notice shall be so published and posted at least ten days before the holding of any such town meeting or election; and any town having adopted the township school government according to the provisions of this chapter, may abolish the same at any town meeting or general election, in the same manner as provided for its adoption in this section; but when the system of township school government shall be adopted, it shall continue in force two years from the date of its adoption, before the question of abolishing it shall be acted upon. Whenever the electors of any incorporated village, having a graded school with three or more departments, shall desire to adopt the township system of schools, they may vote upon the question at any charter or general election held in such village; such vote shall be by ballot of the form above described, and upon like notice, and if a majority of the votes cast upon that subject shall be in favor of the adoption of said system, then such village shall become a part of the township system of the town in which the same is situated. Whenever any town having

adopted the township system of school government shall vote to abolish the same, it shall be the duty of the town board of supervisors, on or before the first day of June next succeeding the date at which the vote was taken, to meet, and by an order made in pursuance to section 413, of chapter 27, of the revised statutes, divide the town into suitable independent school districts, making the order to take effect on the first day of July next following. The subdistrict clerks and the secretary of the town board of directors for the year preceding, shall make the necessary annual reports for the year ending on that day, as required by law, although the offices held by them shall have been abolished.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.  
Approved April 2, 1887.

---

[No. 718, A.]

[Published April 20, 1887.]

## CHAPTER 298.

AN ACT to amend chapter 171, laws of 1855, entitled, "an act to incorporate the Janesville Manufacturing and Hydraulic company."

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 171, of the laws of 1855, entitled, "an act to incorporate the Janesville Manufacturing and Hydraulic company," is hereby amended by adding to section 7, of said act the following: Before any work shall be done under this act, the plan of said proposed work shall be submitted to the common council of the city of Janesville and its consent thereto obtained.

Amending ch.  
171, laws 1855—  
work to be  
submitted to  
common coun-  
cil.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved April 2, 1887.