

Bill accompanying the petition of Charles H. Williams and others for the establishment of an agricultural school in the county of Middlesex. Education. January 1.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirteen.

AN ACT

To provide for the Establishment and Maintenance of an Independent Agricultural School in the County of Middlesex.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. At the next state election there shall be
2 placed upon the official ballots for the county of Middle-
3 sex, the following question:—“ Shall the county of
4 Middlesex establish an independent agricultural school ? ”
5 If a majority of the voters voting thereon vote in the
6 affirmative, then, the governor, with the advice and con-
7 sent of the council, shall appoint four persons, one for
8 the term of one year, one for the term of two years, one
9 for the term of three years and one for the term of four
10 years, and thereafter he shall appoint annually one per-
11 son for the term of four years, residents of the county,
12 who together with the county commissioners for the
13 county shall be known as the trustees of the independent
14 agricultural school of the county of Middlesex. Said

15 trustees shall serve without compensation, but shall be
16 reimbursed for their necessary expenses, the same to be
17 charged and paid on account of maintenance, as herein-
18 after provided.

1 SECTION 2. The said trustees are hereby authorized
2 to determine the location of the said school, subject to
3 the approval of the board of education, and to expend
4 the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars to be provided
5 by the county of Middlesex, for the purchase of real
6 estate and the erection or alteration of buildings there-
7 for. Thereafter the county of Middlesex shall each year
8 upon the recommendation of the said trustees raise by
9 taxation a sum not exceeding twenty-five thousand dol-
10 lars for the maintenance of said school, and the sum
11 so raised shall be paid to the said trustees by the treas-
12 urer of the county upon their requisition. In order to
13 provide for the county's expense in establishing and
14 equipping the agricultural school herein provided for,
15 the county commissioners of the county of Middlesex are
16 hereby authorized to issue bonds of the county from time
17 to time as needed to the amount of seventy-five thousand
18 dollars, to mature in whole or in part in not less than
19 twenty years, with interest at a rate not exceeding four
20 per cent per annum, and the sum so raised shall be
21 paid to the said trustees by the treasurer of the county
22 upon their requisition. The county commissioners may
23 by vote provide for the payment of said debt by such
24 proportionate or other annual payments as will extin-
25 guish the same at maturity, in such manner that the
26 aggregate amount of principal and interest payable in
27 any given year shall not, together, be less than the aggre-
28 gate amount of principal and interest payable in any
29 subsequent year; and thereafter such annual amount

30 shall, without further vote, be assessed under the pro-
31 visions of law relating to the assessment of county taxes.

1 SECTION 3. In order to aid in the maintenance of
2 said school the treasurer of the commonwealth shall, so
3 long as said school is approved by the board of education,
4 pay, as provided in section four of this act and upon the
5 recommendation of said board, to the county of Middle-
6 sex from money in the treasury one half of the cost of
7 maintaining said school, the yearly payments not to ex-
8 ceed the sum of twelve thousand five hundred dollars.

1 SECTION 4. The school authorized by this act shall be
2 maintained as an approved school subject to the provi-
3 sions of chapter four hundred and seventy-one of the
4 acts of the year nineteen hundred and eleven, not incon-
5 sistent with this act, and the county of Middlesex shall
6 be reimbursed for expenditures incurred in the mainte-
7 nance of the school in the same manner and to the same
8 extent as cities and towns are reimbursed under the pro-
9 visions of the said chapter.

1 SECTION 5. 1. The said school shall be free for at-
2 tendance to all residents of said county over fourteen
3 and under twenty-five years of age. Persons over twenty-
4 five years of age who desire to pursue any course of
5 training offered by the school may make application for
6 admission to that course. The board of education, whose
7 decision shall be final, may approve or disapprove of
8 any such application. Any resident over fourteen and
9 under twenty-five years of age of any city or town in
10 Massachusetts which does not maintain an agricultural
11 school approved by the board of education and offering
12 the type of training which he desires, may make appli-

13 cation for admission to the said school. The board of
14 education, whose decision shall be final, may approve or
15 disapprove such application. In making its decision the
16 board of education shall take into consideration the op-
17 portunities for free agricultural training in the com-
18 munity in which the applicant resides, the financial status
19 of the community, the age, sex, preparation, aptitude and
20 previous record of the applicant, and all other relevant
21 circumstances.

22 2. The city or town in which the person resides, whose
23 application for admission to the said school has been
24 approved as herein provided, shall pay such tuition fee
25 as may be fixed by the board of education; and the com-
26 monwealth shall reimburse such city or town, upon the
27 recommendation of the board of education, to the extent
28 of one half the sum paid by the city or town as a tuition
29 fee. If any city or town neglects or refuses to pay for
30 such tuition, it shall be liable therefor in an action of
31 contract brought by the trustees of the school. The said
32 trustees are hereby charged with the duty and respon-
33 sibility of collecting all moneys due the school for
34 tuition fees, for the work of pupils, from the sale of
35 products or from any other source other than local taxa-
36 tion and of paying over such moneys to the treasurer of
37 the county of Middlesex.

1 SECTION 6. The provisions of chapter five hundred
2 and thirty of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and
3 eight for half rate fare upon street railways shall apply
4 to pupils of the said school.

1 SECTION 7. So much of this act as applies to the ref-
2 erendum shall take effect upon its passage, the residue
3 upon its acceptance by the voters of the county as pro-
4 vided in section one of this act.