

The Birmingham Eccentric

Improved School Financial Condition Reflected in 1949 State Legislation

EDITORS NOTE: This is the seventh in a series of articles on laws which were passed at the 1949 session of the Michigan Legislature. They affect you and every citizen of Michigan. The entire series is prepared as a public service of the State Bar of Michigan under the direction of Russell A. Stewart, Lansing, Chairman of the State Bar Committee on Legislation and Law Reform.

The articles are objective in nature and do not attempt to comment on the wisdom or the legislative enactments but rather to present the most important facts and alert you to the changes these laws represent as they become effective on September 23, 1949.

The improved financial condition of the school districts of the state as a result of the sales tax diversion amendment was reflected in new legislation pertaining to school districts enacted by the 1949 Legislature.

During the current year the schools will receive in excess of \$32,000,000, an appropriation amendment, or nearly \$12,000,000 in excess of the appropriation for last year.

Inasmuch as total revenue from the sales tax for the fiscal year just ended approximated \$105,000,000 the legislature in 1950 will be required to increase such appropriation to approximately \$87,000,000.

Such appropriation is in addition to the sixth of the total sales tax collections which the state is required to return to the school districts on the basis of school census without any legislative action.

Such increased prosperity was, however, reflected in various other measures enacted by the legislature. For example, districts which do not maintain high schools are required to pay the tuition of students residing in and attending approved high schools in another district.

Previous to last year the payment of such tuition was optional with the electors of such district.

TRANSPORTATION

The law regulating the transportation of students, either by bus or contracted for by the district, was also amplified to provide for the transportation of students residing in such district but attending private or parochial schools.

Furnishing of such transportation is left to the discretion of the school board but no charge can be made therefor and, if furnished, can only be along the usual route of such bus.

The bill is not permitted to use additional buses for this purpose. Such transportation is an expense of the district and not reimbursable from state funds.

EDUCATION FOR HANDICAPPED

State aid to local districts to defray the additional expense incurred in the furnishing of an educational program for physically handicapped children was likewise increased.

Under the new act districts furnishing such training will be reimbursed for the additional expense incurred up to a maximum annual amount of \$50 for each

child and \$425 for non-dependent children.

Such payments are in addition to normal state aid for those children.

Provision was also made under which arrangements could be made by districts which wish to maintain such facilities for the education of such children in established schools in other districts.

MENTALLY HANDICAPPED

By another act somewhat similar provision for state aid was made for the education of mentally handicapped children. Lower limits, however, were placed upon the amount of state aid available to the school districts on this type of education.

Previously no such provision existed although there has been special aid for training of physically handicapped children.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The general provisions governing school attendance were also amended.

In school districts maintaining kindergartens a child who before five years of age on or before December 1 must, upon application, be accepted in the kindergarten of the school and the semester system is used a child attaining that age on or before March 1 must be accepted.

In school districts not maintaining a kindergarten a child must attain the age of five years at the beginning of the school year in order to be entitled to enrollment unless the school board establishes a younger age for admission.

A previous provision under which a child who had completed the work of sixth grade and was fourteen years of age could be excused from attendance for the reason that his services were essential to the support of his parents was repealed.

Provision was, however, made for the excusing of child of such age who, because of mental or emotional condition, was "unadjustable."

CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Regulations governing the construction of school buildings and building of additions were revised and clarified.

The new regulations and plans for the building must be approved by the superintendent of the county and the location of site, educational usefulness of the building and provisions for health and safety.

Where the cost of such building or the excess of \$15,000 plans must be prepared, and the construction supervised by an architect or registered engineer. Where the cost is less than \$15,000 employment of an architect is not required but plans must be first approved by the superintendent of public instruction.

TEACHER EXCHANGE

School boards were also authorized to grant sabbatical leaves to teachers who had been employed in such districts for at least seven consecutive years and hold permanent or life certificates.

Such leave is for the purpose

Bits of Birmingham

It's a case of "like father, like son" with the Smart family. Father, Frederick A., who lives at 694 Vinewood, died last week in Detroit for the Equitable Life Insurance company of Iowa. The Detroit agency, where he was in the midwest, took first place for the number of new sales during the month of September. Son Harry O., of 1295 Cedar, whose office is here in Birmingham, held place No. 12 when the new sales totals of the 1,000 agents working in this area were tallied.

He had seen the actual parade only once. "That was the year they served hot dogs," he commented. It seems that Reese is busy in the food department each year and all he sees of the celebration is a series of reaching hands and eager faces.

Ever so often in the fire department report this Wanderer finds "emergency calls" listed. It's quite natural to wonder just what that means. In some instances it may mean responding to a call for first aid in the case of a person overcome by gases, or some similar event. Just this past week, however, it had an entirely different meaning. A frantic mother had to have the boys in blue and their flashing red truck come to her home to release a small citizen who had, somehow, gotten locked in the bathroom. Never a dull moment for the firemen.

The "big rain" of last Tuesday may have brought a great deal of discomfort to many adults and motorists, but there were some people in town who enjoyed it to the fullest. As this Wanderer skittered and skipped around through puddles, two small boys, two small boats and a flop-footed spinnaker pup were seen having a high old time for themselves. We were too wet to stop and find out where the voyage started from or was bound for, but it was quite evident that it was a mighty important one. Even the pup looked serious.

George Dunn, playing defensive quarter, will appear in the Western Michigan lineup when the team takes the field against Central Michigan College Saturday afternoon. This will be the 25th time these two teams have clashed in a feud which began way back in 1907. The Broncos have won three out of four recent tough contests by one touchdown.

Members of the AAUW working on the book sale being held at the Y. This will be the 25th time these two teams have clashed in a feud which began way back in 1907. The Broncos have won three out of four recent tough contests by one touchdown.

As in most events, the unusual heroes of the city's Halloween parade are the men and women who work behind the scenes. One of these came light at the parade meeting last week. Rollie Reese, who has served on the committee since its inception, committed the error of not granting the teacher an opportunity for further study and education and cannot do so next semester at any one time.

During such leave the teacher is considered as an employee of the board and entitled to such compensation as provided in its regulations. Upon return to the position he held before the leave, the teacher is considered as an employee of the board and entitled to such compensation as provided in its regulations. Upon return to the position he held before the leave, the teacher is considered as an employee of the board and entitled to such compensation as provided in its regulations.

The county school district act was made applicable to every county of the state. Under this act the existing school districts and their control over their local schools remain unchanged but at county meetings let the board of the local school boards a county board of education is elected which exercises certain advisory and supervisory control over the schools of the county and which elects the county superintendent.

The county superintendent of schools will automatically become superintendent of schools in the remaining counties in which this act will not take effect.

Previously the act applied in those counties having a population of less than 15,000, only if adopted by referendum.

FEDERAL GRANTS-IN-AID

On the state level the act under which application is made to the federal government or its agencies for federal grants for the benefit of the public schools of this state was amended to designate the Superintendent of Public Instruction as the sole state agency to apply for and receive such grants.

The act specifically prohibits the Superintendent of Public Instruction from entering into any agreement with any Federal agency whereby that agency will directly or indirectly control the administration of such public schools or the course of study therein.

FERRIS INSTITUTE

Ferris Institute, which for years has been operated as a private institution, became a state institution by the passage of an act accepting the gift thereof, together with all properties owned in connection with that institution and is to be controlled by a state board of eight members to be appointed by the governor.

No appropriation was made for that institution at this session of the legislature since at present time none seemed necessary.

The next article in this series will deal with taxes.

morning of October 1, the opening of the annual bow and arrow hunting season . . . and as Beverly and I started out for our day's riding, suddenly we came upon a stretch of woods that seemed filled with modern Sioux Indians, or Red Hoops, anyway, we both decided that we'd better get out of the woods, "lest we be mistaken for a couple of white-tailed deer. We did just that, too. Boy! were those woods filled with men intent on getting some venison."

Have You Met? . . . Mr. and Mrs. George Silmet and children, Susan, Beverly and George who have come from Pontiac to 1540 Villa. Mr. Silmet is a salesman with the E. J. Beckson Co.

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BLOOMFIELD VILLAGE

Light and bright with the sun streaming through its many windows, there's lots of good living here in this substantial home.

All rooms are spacious and the master suite includes a fireplace and dressing room. There are three baths, service stairs, breakfast room, and butler's pantry. The games room is 16 x 25.

Freshly decorated, some carpeting is included—more is optional. A 3-car garage answers the storage problem for children's things.

It's close enough to transportation, area shops, and an easy jaunt to Quanton School.

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