

MR. PERRIN, from the Committee on Schools, submitted the following report:

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Committee on Schools, to whom was referred house files Nos. 242, 249, 454, 205 and 400, bills for an act to provide cheap and uniform text-books in counties, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration and have instructed me to report the same back to the house with the recommendation that a substitute for all of said bills, herewith submitted, do pass.

PERRIN, *Chairman.*

Ordered passed on file.

SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE FILES NOS. 242, 249, 454, 205 AND 400.]

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE CHEAP AND UNIFORM TEXT-BOOKS IN COUNTIES.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* That the board of supervisors shall, at the general election in the year 1880, submit to the qualified electors of their respective counties the question whether they are in favor of a uniform text-book system; and they may submit the same as often thereafter as they deem best.

SEC. 2. The ballots at such election shall read "In favor of a uniform text-book system" or "Opposed to a uniform text-book system." And the votes shall be canvassed as the law directs in other cases.

SEC. 3. If the majority of the votes so cast shall be in favor of such uniform system, the county superintendent shall, within reasonable time, send to the principal text-book publishing houses in the United States, asking them to furnish bids at which they will furnish text-books (naming the same) for the use of the public schools of the county for the period of five years from and after one year from the adoption of the same by the county, said books to be kept on sale at retail by the publishers in a certain number of places (naming the same) in the county; said bids, accompanied by specimen copies of books, to be furnished within sixty days. The county superintendent shall forward a copy of this act with each communication to the publishers.

SEC. 4. The county superintendent shall then call a convention of the presidents of the boards of directors and the teachers holding first-class or professional certificates in the

3 county: said call shall be published at least two weeks previous to the meeting of said con-
 4 vention, in the official newspapers of the county. If there be no such papers published in
 5 the county, the county superintendent shall cause a notice of the same to be posted in at
 6 least two public places in each township of the county; said call shall state the hour, day and
 7 place of holding said convention.

SEC. 5. The county superintendent shall preside at said convention, and a secretary shall
 2 be chosen from their number.

SEC. 6. Said convention, so called and so organized, shall proceed, in the manner it deems
 2 best, to the selection from the bids received, a series of text-books for the use of the public
 3 schools of the county, taking into consideration the quality of the books, the price at which
 4 the publishers agree to furnish the same, and the books already in use in the schools of the
 5 county.

SEC. 7. The county superintendent shall then transmit to the board of supervisors a list
 2 of the text-books so chosen, with a copy of all the bids received.

SEC. 8. The board of supervisors shall then, unless it appears that there has been collu-
 2 sion or fraud, or that no considerable amount could be saved thereby, enter into a contract
 3 with the publishing house or houses agreeing to furnish the books chosen by the convention,
 4 said contract to contain the following stipulations: On the part of the county, that no other
 5 text-books shall be used in the public schools of the county for the period of five years from
 6 and after the time specified in section three (3) of this act, except as hereinafter provided; on
 7 the part of the publishers, first, that they will keep on sale at all times in a certain number of
 8 places, to be specified in contract, books in sufficient quantities to supply the needs of the
 9 schools of the county; second, that the books furnished shall be the same in every respect as
 10 those named in the contract, and copies of which have been furnished, said specimen copies
 11 to be kept at the office of the county superintendent: third, that the price per copy at which
 12 they will furnish said books at retail shall not exceed the price stated in bid, the same to be
 13 printed on title page of each book.

SEC. 9. The board of supervisors shall require a sufficient bond of the publishers for the
 2 faithful compliance with the contract.

SEC. 10. No other books shall be used in any of the public schools of the county for the
 2 period covered by said contract, except in districts which have adopted a series of text-books
 3 within the two years previous. Such districts shall not be compelled to use said books until
 4 the expiration of the time for which they have adopted books.

SEC. 11. Any district failing or refusing to comply with the provisions of this act shall
 2 forfeit to the county one-half of its apportionment of the county school tax, which shall be

3 turned over by the county to the publishing house or houses injured thereby.

SEC. 12. It shall be the duty of the board of directors of any district located in a county
2 which has failed to adopt a uniform system to adopt, within a reasonable time, a series of
3 text-books for the use of their school or schools.

SEC. 13. The electors of any district may, at the annual election in March, vote a tax for
2 the purpose of purchasing text-books for the use of their school or schools, said books to be
3 loaned, hired, given or sold to the pupils: if sold, the price shall not exceed ten per cent
4 above the cost price: *provided*, that districts situated in counties where a uniform system has
5 been adopted shall purchase of the same house or houses which furnish books to the county.

SEC. 14. Any expense arising under this act shall be paid out of the county treasury
2 upon the allowance of the same by the board of supervisors.