The judges of the said Municipal Court shall be ex Judges shall be officio justices of the peace. When defendants are bound of the peace. over for trial in any case, indictments may be presented against them before the grand jury in accordance with existing laws, which indictments may be tried either in existing courts or in the Municipal Court as the case may be: Provided, however, That, if it shall be decided Proviso. by the courts that provisions herein for exclusive jurisdiction in Municipal Court, or for abolishing preliminary hearings in certain cases, are unconstitutional, the intent of the Legislature is hereby expressed that said provisions only shall be void, and that all other provisions of this act shall be valid and enforceable.

All cases of desertion and nonsupport, instituted in cases pending the court of quarter sessions pursuant to the authority of existing law, which are pending and undisposed of in said court at the time this act takes effect, together with all orders, decrees, judgments, or sentences, are hereby transferred to the Municipal Court. The said Municipal Transfer. Court is hereby authorized to hear, determine, and dispose of the cases hereby transferred, and shall have full power and authority to enforce any and all orders, decrees, judgments, or sentences heretofore entered or imposed in said cases by the said court of quarter sessions, with the same power and effect as if such cases had been originally instituted in the said Municipal Court.

Section 2. That section ten of said act, and the Section 10.

amendments thereto, are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This act shall become effective immediately when effective. upon final enactment.

Approved—The 7th day of May, A. D. 1937.

GEORGE H. EARLE

No. 157

AN ACT

To further amend the act, approved the eighteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and eleven (Pamphlet Laws, three hundred nine), entitled "An act to establish a public school system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, together with the provisions by which it shall be administered, and prescribing penalties for the violation thereof; providing revenue to establish and maintain the same, and the method of collecting such revenue; and repealing all laws, general, special or local, or any parts thereof, that are or may be inconsistent therewith," by requiring certain school districts to merge with other districts, and thereafter to function as a part of the districts with which they have been merged; creating a county board of school directors for school districts under the directors tion of a county superintendent; defining its powers and duties; further regulating the affairs of certain school_districts; conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of

and undisposed

Public Instruction, the State Council of Education, and county superintendents of schools; and imposing certain expenses on counties.

Schools.
Section 108, act of May 18, 1911 (P. L. 309), amended.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That section one hundred and eight of the act, approved the eighteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and eleven (Pamphlet Laws, three hundred nine), entitled "An act to establish a public school system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, together with the provisions by which it shall be administered, and prescribing penalties for the violation thereof; providing revenue to establish and maintain the same, and the method of collecting such revenue; and repealing all laws, general, special or local, or any parts thereof, that are or may be inconsistent therewith," is hereby amended to read as follows:

Independent school districts abolished.

Section 108. (a) From and after the beginning of the first school year, as herein provided for the school district herein established, all independent school districts as they now exist shall be abolished, and the lands comprising the same shall revert to the school districts hereby established in which they are located, and all land heretofore taken from one school district and annexed to another, whether by act of Assembly or order of the court, or otherwise, be and hereby is made a part of the school district hereby established in which such land is located, so that the boundary lines of the several school districts as established by this act shall be coterminous with the boundary lines of the several cities, incorporated towns, boroughs, and townships in this Commonwealth, as they then exist or may hereafter be created, changed, or extended: Provided, That independent school districts may be created as hereinafter provided.

Proviso.

Mergers where no teacher employed prior to January 1, 1937

(b) From and after the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight, all school districts now existing in which no teacher has been employed prior to the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, for the school year one thousand nine hundred thirty-six-one thousand nine hundred thirty-seven (1936-1937), shall be merged with other districts, and the lands comprising the same, together with any property or equipment owned by any such district, shall become a part of and belong to such district or districts as the court of common pleas of the county in which the property is located shall determine. It shall be the duty of the county board of school directors to prepare and present petitions for such mergers in accordance with standards and regulations set up by the State Council of Education. In like manner all school districts employing, prior to the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, for the school year one thousand nine hundred thirty-six-one

thousand nine hundred thirty-seven (1936-1937), ten teachers, or less, shall be merged with other districts, on and after the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and forty-one, if the electors of any such school district shall first have consented to such merger. question of such merger shall be submitted to the electors electors at the municipal election in the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine, and at least ninety (90) days previous to such election, the court of common pleas shall have determined the district with which such district shall merge upon petition of the county board of school directors as hereinbefore provided for districts now having no teachers. The question to be submitted to the electors shall be framed by the court, and be by it certified to the county commissioners for submission to the electors of the district so proposed to be merged. submission shall be in accordance with the laws of this Commonwealth relating to such question. In any such School directors instance in which a school district is merged with become directors another district or districts by the terms of this act, each of new district. school director of the district which is discontinued shall automatically become a member of the board of school directors within the district to which the territory in which he resides has been annexed, and he shall continue to serve as a member of the said board until his term of office has expired.

(c) The provisions of clause (b) of this section and of clause (e) of section eight hundred fourteen shall not apply in the case of any school district affected, if the district has since the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, and not later than the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirtyseven, obtained from the State Council of Education the approval of a plan of consolidation of two or more districts as a union district, and has actually accomplished and completed such a consolidation before the effective dates set forth in clause (b) of this section.

Section 2. Section one hundred and ten of the said Section 110, as Section 2. Section one number and the seventh last amended and twenty-nine 7, 1929 (P. L. day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine (Pamphlet Laws, one thousand six hundred twenty-one), amended. is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 110. Where any [independent] school dis- Apportionment trict is abolished and its land reverts to or becomes a part of two or more school districts, or where any land heretofore annexed to one school district is made a part of the district in which it is located, or where a new district is made by the creation of a new city, borough, township, or independent school district, out of one or more school districts, or where the boundary lines of any district are changed by the changing of the boundary lines of any city, incorporated town, borough, township

The Submission of

7, 1929 (P. 1 1621), further

of property and indebtedness when districts modified.

or [independent] school district, then, in any such case, the school districts to which land has been annexed, or from which land has been taken, or which have been newly created, shall make a just and proper adjustment and apportionment of all school property, real and personal, including funds, as well as indebtedness, if any, to and among such school districts. Such adjustment and apportionment shall be made as of the date of the decree or order creating such new city, borough, township or [independent] school district, or of the decree of the court or vote of the electors affecting such annexation. The indebtedness of any [independent] school district hereby abolished, whose land is wholly within the boundaries of any school district hereby established, shall be assumed and paid and all its personal property acquired by such school district.

Section 563, as last amended by act of July 18, 1935 (P. L. 1192), further amended.

Section 3. Section five hundred and sixty-three of the said act, as last amended by section two of the act, approved the eighteenth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-five (Pamphlet Laws, eleven thousand ninety-two), is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Districts of second, third and fourth classes.

Proposed budget.

Apportionment.

Proviso.

Section 563. The board of school directors of each school district of the second, third, or fourth class shall. annually, at least thirty days prior to the adoption of the annual budget, prepare a proposed budget of the amount of funds that will be required by the school district in its several departments for the following fiscal year. Such proposed budget shall be prepared on a uniform form, prepared and furnished as hereinafter provided, and shall be apportioned to the several classes of expenditures of the district as the board of school directors thereof may determine. Final action shall not be taken on any proposed budget, in which the estimated expenditures exceed two thousand (\$2,000), until after ten days' public notice: Provided, however, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent any school district, whose total estimated expenditures do not exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000), from holding a public hearing. The proposed budget shall be printed, or otherwise made available for public inspection to all persons who may interest themselves, at least twenty days prior to the date set for the adoption of the budget. The board of school directors, after making such revisions and changes therein as appear advisable, shall adopt the budget and the necessary appropriation measures required to put it into effect. Within fifteen days after the adoption of the budget, the board of school directors shall file a copy of the same in the office of the Department of Public Instruction. In all school districts under the direction of a county superintendent, the county board of school directors shall inspect the annual budget and shall render such advice and assistance regarding the same, as may seem proper, before the said budget shall be signed and forwarded to the department by the county superintendent.

The board of school directors may, during any fiscal Additional year, make additional appropriations or increase existing appropriations to meet emergencies, such as epidemics, floods, fire, or other catastrophies, the funds therefor to be provided from unexpended balances in existing appropriations, from unappropriated revenue, if any, or from temporary loans. Such temporary loans, when made, shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the board of school directors.

Transfer of balances.

Budget to be

appropriations to meet

emergencies.

The board of school directors shall have power to authorize the transfer within the same fund of any unencumbered balance, or any portion thereof, from one spending agency to another, but such action shall be taken only during the last nine months of the fiscal year, and, except as hereinbefore otherwise provided, no moneys apportioned [from] to any class of expenditures shall be used for purposes other than designated for said class in said budget. The total amount of such Total amount. budget shall not exceed the amount of funds, including the proposed annual tax levy and State appropriation, available for school purposes in that district.

The uniform budget forms required by this act shall be prepared by the Department of Public Instruction which shall issue said forms and distribute them anually, as needed, to the school districts.

Section 4. Section six hundred and one of said act is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 601,

The board of school directors of each Section 601. district shall provide the necessary grounds and suitable school buildings to accommodate all the children between the ages of six and twenty-one years, in said district, who attend school. Such building shall be constructed, furnished, equipped, and maintained in a proper manner as herein provided, suitable provisions being made for the heating, ventilating, and sanitary conditions thereof, so that every pupil in any such building may have proper and healthful accommodations. In all school districts under the direction of a county superintendent, all grounds and the plans for all buildings shall be approved only with the advice and consent of the county board of school directors.

Grounds and

Section 5. Article eight of the said act is hereby amended by adding thereto sections eight hundred and nine, eight hundred and ten, eight hundred and eleven, added to eight hundred and twelve, eight hundred and thirteen, article 8. and eight hundred and fourteen to read as follows:

Sections 809, 810, 811, 812, 813 and 814

Section 809. There is hereby created in each county, County board. under the supervision of a county superintendent, a

Membership.

county board of school directors. The membership of the first board so created shall consist of the members of the executive committee chosen at the annual convention of school directors held during the school year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven—one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight (1937-1938).

Terms of office.

Section 810. The term of office of the members first chosen for the said county board of school directors shall be determined as follows: Immediately after they are chosen at the annual convention of school directors held during the school year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven—one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight (1937-1938), they shall meet and qualify by taking an oath of office. They shall then determine by lot which one of their members shall serve until the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred forty-four, which two shall serve until the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred forty-two, and which two shall serve until the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred forty. Thereafter members of the said county board of school directors shall be elected at the annual convention next preceding the expiration of their respective terms of office, and shall serve for terms of six years, or until their successors are chosen. All vacancies occurring, except by the expiration of a term, shall be filled by the county board of school directors until the next annual convention, at which a successor shall be elected for the balance of the unexpired term.

No person shall become or be re-elected as a member of the county board of school directors unless he, at the time he is chosen, holds the office of school director with-

in the county.

Section 811. Each officer of the board of county school directors first chosen under the provisions of this act, shall continue to serve in the office for which he was chosen by the annual convention until the first Monday in December, one thousand nine hundred thirty-eight. On the first Monday in December, one thousand nine hundred thirty-eight and annually thereafter, the county board of school directors shall choose from their members a president and a vice-president, each to serve for one year, and in December one thousand nine hundred thirty-eight, they shall choose for a term of four years a secretary who need not be a member of the board, but who is and who shall remain during his term of office a resident of the county, and during the month of December, one thousand nine hundred thirty-eight, they shall choose a treasurer to serve until the first Monday in July, one thousand nine hundred thirty-nine, and during the month of May, one thousand nine hundred thirtynine and annually thereafter, a treasurer shall be

Board shall elect president, vice-president, and a secretary.

chosen to serve for one year beginning the first Monday

in July following such election.

Section 812. The county board of school directors Meetings. shall meet in at least ten regular meetings each year at a specified time and place, and, in addition thereto, shall meet in special meeting at any other time upon the call of the county superintendent. A majority of the members shall be a quorum. If less than a majority is present at any meeting, no business shall be transacted, but the members present may adjourn to some stated time: Pro- Proviso. vided, That, if at any time vacancies exist in the majority of the memberships, the remaining members may fill such vacancies in the manner provided by existing law for school districts of the second, third, and fourth class. No business shall be transacted at any special special meeting. meeting except that named in the call, but special meetings may be called for general purposes. Members shall have reasonable notice of special meetings. The board may adopt reasonable rules directing the kind and length of such notice.

Section 813. Each member of the county board of Salaries. school directors shall receive a salary which shall equal five dollars for each meeting attended, but shall not exceed sixty dollars (\$60.00) per annum, which shall be paid monthly by the State from appropriations made for this purpose, or from the appropriations for the public schools. The county board of school directors shall be provided, at the expense of the county, with such telephone, typewriter and stenographic services as may be needed, which services may, if adequate, be the same as those furnished to the county superintendent.

Section 814. The county board of school directors Powers and

shall have power and its duty shall be-

duties.

- (a) To inspect all budgets and annual financial reports, and shall render such advice and assistance regarding the same as may seem proper before such budgets or reports are transmitted to the Department of Public Instruction:
- (b) To advise local boards and make recommendations to them regarding all free transportation routes and contracts to be used after the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred thirty-eight:
- (c) Subject to the approval of the State Council of Education, to apportion the cost of free transportation among school districts in all cases where, after the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred thirty-eight. such districts jointly use the same transportation facilities:
- (d) To recommend the approval or disapproval of school sites and buildings by the State Council of Education:

(e) In accordance with standards and regulations set up by the State Council of Education and subject to the provisions of this act, to prepare plans and to present the same in a petition to the court of common pleas of the county whereby all school districts, which employ no teacher for the school year one thousand nine hundred thirty-six—one thousand nine hundred thirty-seven (1936-1937), shall be immediately merged with other districts, and all school districts which employ ten teachers or less for the school year one thousand nine hundred thirty-six-one thousand nine hundred thirty-seven, shall, subject to the provisions set forth in clause (b) of section one hundred and eight of this act, be merged with other districts, on and after July first, one thousand nine hundred forty-one; also to prepare and submit to the State Council of Education plans for additional reorganization of school districts and attendance areas, the first draft of which plans shall be submitted, on or before the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred thirty-nine, and supplemental drafts of plans shall thereafter be submitted at such intervals as requested by the said council;

(f) To advise local boards and make recommendations to them for the collection of current and delinquent

taxes;

(g) To establish a uniform and simple system of accounting under the direction of the county superintendent and the Department of Public Instruction;

(h) To advise local boards and make recommendations

to them for the enforcement of the attendance law;

(i) To make such studies and reports as may be suggested by the State Council of Education.

Section 6. Section eight hundred and seven of said

act is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 807. It shall be the duty of the county superintendent, and of the district and assistant county and district superintendents in the county, to attend such annual conventions, and they shall be members ex officio of the executive committee, and shall render such assistance and aid to the executive committee of such association as may be required of them: Provided, That they shall have no vote in the convention or in approving the selection of assistant county superintendents.

The county superintendent shall be the chief executive officer of the county board of school directors and ex officio a member of all committees thereof. As chief executive officer he shall be privileged to attend all meetings of the board and to enter into all discussions and debates, but shall not be privileged to vote. He shall sign the annual budgets and financial reports of the school districts as they are certified to the Department of Public Instruction, and shall forward them to the de-

Section 807, amended.

County superintendent.

Proviso.

partment. The county superintendent shall furnish such reports as may be required by the county board of school directors and by the Department of Public Instruction.

The second paragraph of section one thou-graph of section one thou-second paragraph of section and four of said act. as amended by sand four hundred and four of said act, as amended by section seven of the act, approved the first day of June, amended by act of June 1, 1933 (P. L. 1152), Laws, one thousand one hundred fifty-two), is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 1404. The board of school directors in any Free transportaschool district in this Commonwealth may, out of the funds of the district, provide for the free transportation of any pupil to and from the public schools. In all school districts under the direction of a county superintendent, all transportation routes to be used after the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred thirty-eight. shall be established with the advice and assistance of the county board of school directors. In any case where, after such date, two or more such districts jointly use the same transportation facilities, the cost of such transportation shall, subject to the approval of the State Council of Education, be apportioned among such districts by the county board of school directors.

Section 8. Section one thousand four hundred and Section 1406, as last amended by six of said act, as last amended by section thirty-four of act of May 29, the act, approved the twenty-ninth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one (Pamphlet Laws, amended. two hundred forty-three), is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 1406. The board of school directors of any School may be school district in this Commonwealth may, on account of the small number of pupils in attendance, or the condition of the then existing school building, or for the purpose of better gradation and classification, or other reasons, close any one or more of the public schools in its district, and, upon such school or schools being so closed, the pupils who belong to the same shall be assigned to other schools, or upon cause shown, be permitted to attend schools in other districts:

Provided, That whenever the average term attendance Proviso. of pupils regularly enrolled at any one-room school in any school district of the fourth class or township which is a district of the third class is ten, or less than ten, the board of school directors shall close such school.

If the board of school directors does not deem it fea- Board may sible to close such school, it may present its petition to the State Council of Education, showing the reasons why Education. such school should not be closed; thereupon the State Council of Education shall consider such petition, and shall make such order as may seem just in the premises: Provided, however, If any school as aforesaid has been Proviso. closed because the average term attendance of pupils en-

tion of pupils.

1931 (P. L. 243), further

petition State Council of

Proviso.

rolled was ten, or less than ten, and has been reopened upon an order of the State Council of Education, and the average term attendance is twelve, or more, after such reopening, such school shall be considered reestablished: Provided further, That in any district of the fourth class or township which is a district of the third class, elementary school pupils who reside within that part of the school district last served by any elementary school closed since the first Monday of July, one thousand nine hundred and seven, or within a district all of whose schools have been closed, or who are assigned to a training school of a State Normal School, and reside one and one-half miles or more from the school to which they are assigned, shall be furnished proper transportation, at the expense of the district, to and from the elementary school to which they are assigned. All such transportation routes to be used after the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight, shall be established with the advice and assistance of* the county board of school directors of the county. In any case after such date when two or more school districts jointly use the same transportation facilities, the cost of such transportation shall, subject to the approval of the State Council of Education, be apportioned among such districts by the county board of school directors:

Proviso.

Board and lodging.

Proviso.

Proviso. Transportation.

State's share.

And provided further, That whenever the board of school directors in any fourth class district or township which is a district of the third class agrees to or is required to provide transportation for any pupils, such board of school directors may, upon petition of the parent, guardian, or person in parental relation to any of said pupils, in lieu of providing such transportation, pay for suitable board and lodging for such pupils, if such board and lodging is secured in the home of a near relative of the pupil or in a proper school or home approved by the person making the petition: Provided, That in no case shall the State's share exceed one dollar (\$1.00) per day per pupil for the actual number of days such pupil is in attendance at school, not exceeding five days in any one week:

Provided, That if the Department of Public Instruction approves the transportation as to methods and means and the contracts provided therefor, the Commonwealth will pay annually to the school district furnishing such transportation an amount determined by (a) the true valuation per teacher per district as provided by section one thousand two hundred and ten of an act, approved the eighteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and eleven (Pamphlet Laws, three hundred nine), entitled "An act to establish a public school system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, together with the provisions by which it shall be administered.

^{* &}quot;of" inserted.

and prescribing penalties for the violation thereof; providing revenue to establish and maintain the same, and the method of collecting such revenue; and repealing all laws, general, special or local, or any parts thereof, that are or may be inconsistent therewith," as amended; and by (b) a given per centum of the sum which has been expended during the previous school year by such a school district for transporting pupils of said schools to and from said schools, as follows: The amount paid by the Commonwealth to a school district which has a true valuation per teacher of assessable property of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), or less, shall be seventy-five (75) per centum; more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,-000) to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), sixty (60) per centum: and more than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), fifty (50) per centum: Provided, Proviso. That in case said school district has purchased or shall hereafter purchase an approved school conveyance which school conis used exclusively for approved school purposes, said veyance. sum may include a reasonable charge for depreciation and repairs, not to exceed fifteen (15) per centum of the cost of said approved school conveyance: Provided, That Proviso. the State's share of depreciation and repairs shall not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per vehicle per year: Provided further, That the State's share for trans- Proviso. portation shall not exceed one dollar (\$1.00) per day per pupil for the actual number of days such pupil is transported to and from school: Provided further, That dis- Proviso. tricts receiving reimbursement on the basis of seventyfive (75) per centum and sixty (60) per centum shall not receive more than four thousand dollars (\$4,000) in any one school year from the State for transportation: Pro- Proviso. vided further. That districts receiving reimbursement on the basis of fifty (50) per centum shall not receive more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in any one year from the State for transportation.

On or before the first day of July of each year, each Districts of third school district of the third and fourth class, transporting pupils as herein provided, shall present to the Superintendent of Public Instruction in such form as he for transporting may prescribe and on blanks to be furnished by him a sworn statement of the amount expended during the previous school year for transporting pupils to and from school as herein provided. On the basis of such a statement, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall, by requisition upon the State Treasurer, pay during the month of September to such school district such reimbursement for the previous school year as is provided for in this act.

Section 9. Section one thousand four hundred and seighteen of said act, as last amended by section one of act of March 29, the act, approved the twenty-ninth day of March, one 1927 (P. L. 75), further amended.

and fourth classes to present statement of amount expended

thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven (Pamphlet Laws, seventy-five), is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Child residing more than 2 miles from school.

District of fourth class to be reimbursed by Commonwealth.

Section 1418. In case there is no public school in session within two miles by the nearest public highway of the residence of any child, such child shall be exempt from the provisions of this act relating to compulsory attendance, unless proper free transportation be furnished to such child to and from school. [Provided] If proper free transportation is furnished to any such child [under sixteen years] of compulsory school age to and from school, the Commonwealth shall reimburse any school district of the fourth class furnishing such transportation in the same manner and amounts as provided for in this act for transportation of pupils from closed schools. In all school districts under the direction of a county superintendent, all transportation routes to be used after the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight, shall be established with the advice and assistance of the county board of school directors. In any case where, after such date, two or more such districts jointly use the same transportation facilities, the cost of such transportation shall, subject to the approval of the State Council of Education, be apportioned among such districts by the county board of school directors.

Section 2615, amended.

Filing of reports.

Section 10. Section two thousand six hundred and fifteen of said act is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2615. In all school districts of the second, third, and fourth class in this Commonwealth, the auditors' report of the finances of the district for the preceding year, as made by the auditors herein provided, shall be filed with the board of school directors, and entered on the minutes of the board by the secretary thereof. In all school districts under the direction of a county superintendent, the auditors' report shall be inspected by the county board of school directors, and shall be signed and forwarded to the department by the county superintendent.

Constitutional provision.

Section 11. The provisions of this act shall be severable, and if any of the provisions shall be held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of any of the remaining provisions of this act. It is hereby declared as the legislative intent that this act would have been adopted had such unconstitutional provision not been included therein.

When effective.

Section 12. Except as hereinbefore otherwise specifically provided, the provisions of this act shall become effective on the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven.

Approved—The 13th day of May, A. D. 1937.

GEORGE H. EARLE