

The State Superintendent should be Required by Law to Have Educational Qualifications.

The amendment gives the legislature the power to fix the qualifications of the state superintendent. He is not now required to hold even a third grade certificate. At the present time he is required by law to issue all certificates to high school teachers, and to county superintendents. County superintendents are required by law to have an educational qualification to be eligible to the office, while the state superintendent may be a man who could not qualify either as a high school teacher or as a county superintendent.

The Legislature Should Have Power to Fix the Powers, Duties, and Compensation of This Officer, as in the Case of All Other Administrative Officers.

The amendment gives the legislature the power to determine and fix the powers, duties, and compensation of this officer, as is done in the case of the other administrative officers of the state government, the Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, and Railroad Commissioner.

Should Enter Upon his Duties at Opening of School Year.

The amendment provides that the state superintendent shall enter upon the duties of his office at the opening of the school year. At the present time he comes into office at the same time the legislature convenes, with no experience in the administration of the school laws, and as may well happen with little or no knowledge of the laws in existence, or any definite ideas as to needed changes in the laws. He thus finds himself unable to give information and advice to members of the legislature who may seek such information or advice as to legislative matters pertaining to education.

Term of Office and Mode of Selecting Other Officers of Public Instruction Should be Controlled by the Legislature as in the Case of Other Officers.

The amendment also provides that the term of office, time and manner of electing or appointing all other officers of supervision of public instruction shall be fixed by law, which is exactly what is done in the case of all other offices, state or local, which are not constitutional offices.

The representatives of the people in the legislature may safely be trusted to perform the duties devolving upon them by this amendment, and in the interests of the people whom they represent.

This circular is sent out in order to call the attention of the people to this important amendment, and to inform them fully of its provisions. It is in no sense a political measure. Of the one hundred and thirty-three members of the legislature, but two voted against it in 1899, and in 1901 but three voted against it. A favorable vote upon the amendment is of the most vital importance to the educational interests of the state.

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