

city and of the several counties in the State, as such new text-books are required, and when so procured, the necessary text-books shall be furnished free of cost for use in the public schools of the State, subject to the order of said boards, on or after the first day of August, 1896; but said boards shall have the right at any time to change any series of text-books already in use or hereafter adopted; provided, that text-books shall be furnished under the provisions of this article to the several grades in the public schools, successively, beginning with the first grade; and provided, that said boards shall not be required to expend during any school year for said text books, more than the several amounts of money received by said boards, respectively, under the provisions of this article; and provided, that indigent pupils of all grades shall receive text-books free of cost, as provided under the provisions of existing laws; and provided, the said respective boards shall adopt such means for the purchase of text-books by competitive bidding, as far as is practicable, and at the lowest possible price. And provided, that parents or pupils may purchase their own text-books when they may think proper; and provided further, that the several boards of school commissioners shall furnish annually to the State board of education the title, the name of the publisher, and the net price paid for each text-book so purchased; which information shall be set forth in full in the annual report made by the State board of education.

1896, ch. 135.

60. The said several boards shall authorize the delivery of text-books to the various public schools under their supervision, respectively. And shall provide for the issuing, safe keeping, care and return of the same, under such rules and regulations as they may severally adopt.

Ibid.

61. The said several boards shall keep an account of all moneys expended under the provisions of this article, and report the same in the annual financial accounts as required by law, and no money so received by them shall ever be used for any other purpose than for the purchase of school books, as provided by the two preceding sections.