

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 3

House of Representatives, Jan. 11, 1921.

On motion of Mr. Bragdon of Perham, tabled pending reference in concurrence. Three hundred copies ordered printed.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE

AN ACT to Empower the County of Aroostook to Aid in the Construction of a Railroad Through Said County, and to Acquire and Hold Bonds of the Company Building Such Railroad.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Section 1. The county of Aroostook is hereby authorized
2 to aid in the construction of a railroad through said county,
3 by subscribing for and purchasing part of an issue of six
4 per cent twenty-year gold bonds of the Eastern Maine Rail-
5 road, to an amount not to exceed the sum of two hundred
6 thousand dollars in all, which such bonds said Eastern Maine
7 Railroad has already applied to the public utilities commis-
8 sion for permission to issue.

Sect. 2. There shall be submitted to the voters of the
2 several towns and organized plantations in said county, with-
3 in thirty days after March first, nineteen hundred and twen-
4 ty, the following proposition: "Shall the county of Aroos-
5 took subscribe for and purchase bonds of the Eastern Maine
6 Railroad, to an amount not to exceed the sum of two hun-
7 dred thousand dollars in all" and it is hereby made the duty
8 of the county commissioners of said county to appoint a
9 day within that time for meetings to vote thereon; and to
10 notify the selectmen of towns and assessors of plantations
11 thereof, leaving a sufficient time for calling said meetings
12 in the usual form for town meetings. Said commissioners
13 shall cause to be prepared, printed forms for the warrants
14 and returns of said meetings and transmit them with their
15 notifications to town and plantation officers, as above pre-
16 scribed.

Sect. 3. The selectmen of towns and assessors of plan-
2 tations in said county, shall call meetings on the day ap-
3 pointed, by issuing and posting warrants therefor as for
4 other town meetings. No such meeting shall be opened
5 before ten o'clock in the forenoon or later than one o'clock
6 in the afternoon and the polls shall be kept open until five
7 o'clock in the afternoon and then closed.

Sect. 4. At said meetings the vote shall be taken by printed
2 or written ballots, and those in favor of said proposition
3 shall vote "yes," and those opposed shall vote "no," and
4 the ballots cast shall be sorted and counted and the vote

5 declared in open meeting. The municipal officers shall pre-
6 side as at state elections, and make return thereof to the
7 county commissioners by depositing in some post office in
8 said county, within twenty-four hours after the close of
9 said polls, their return of the votes cast, postpaid, directed
10 to the clerk of courts at Houlton in said county, to be trans-
11 mitted by mail; or personally deliver the same to said clerk
12 within that time.

Sect. 5. The county commissioners of said county shall
2 meet at the court house in Houlton, ten days after said
3 meetings, and canvass the returns and declare the result
4 and the result shall then be recorded by the clerk of courts
5 and be certified on the record by said commissioners and
6 clerk, which said record shall be the only record required
7 of the vote cast under this act, and in case a majority of
8 the ballots cast and returned as aforesaid, are in favor of
9 said proposition, said commissioners shall carry out the
10 provisions of this act, as ratified by such vote, in the man-
11 ner hereinafter provided. But if a majority of the ballots
12 cast and returned as aforesaid are opposed to said propo-
13 sition, then after the expiration of six months from the date
14 of said first meeting, said commissioners upon the written
15 application of one hundred or more legal voters residing in
16 said county, shall appoint a second day for meeting to vote
17 upon said proposition, in the same manner hereinbefore pro-
18 vided for, but no more than two votes shall be thus taken
19 upon this proposition.

Sect. 6. In case said proposition is adopted as herein-
2 before provided and accepted by said railroad company,
3 then said commissioners shall cause subscription to be made
4 in behalf of said county for bonds of said Eastern Maine
5 Railroad to the amount authorized by this act, and payment
6 therefor shall be made at the option of the county com-
7 missioners either in cash, or bonds of the county bearing
8 interest at the rate of six per cent per annum, by the county
9 treasurer to the treasurer of said railroad, upon the orders
10 of said commissioners, which shall be issued as follows:
11 After the commencement of actual work upon the lines of
12 said railroad within the county of Aroostook, whenever said
13 railroad shall have graded any section of four miles of its
14 line between the south line of said county and the north
15 line of the town of Houlton including branch lines, a dis-
16 tance of about thirty-seven miles, payment shall be due and
17 be made at the rate of five thousand dollars per mile graded
18 and when the whole line shall be thus graded from a junc-
19 tion with the Maine Central Railroad at Bancroft to and
20 including the terminal at Houlton, according to the surveys
21 and location thereof as approved by the public utilities com-
22 mission, then the balance of said two hundred thousand dol-
23 lars thus subscribed for, if any, shall be paid; and for each
24 payment thus made bonds of said Eastern Maine Railroad
25 shall be issued and delivered to said county treasurer to
26 the same amount in par value thereof.

Sect. 7. Unless said Eastern Maine Railroad shall have
2 filed with the county commissioners of said county the loca-
3 tion of its line through Aroostook county, according to actual
4 surveys, as approved by the public utilities commission,
5 accompanied by the affidavit of the majority of the directors
6 of said company, that they intend in good faith, to proceed
7 forthwith with the construction of said line of railroad, and
8 shall have begun the work of actual construction of said
9 line within said county, on or before the first day of May,
10 nineteen hundred and twenty, and shall have graded said
11 line of railroad to Houlton, within two years from the time
12 this act takes effect, and if said railroad company shall fail
13 to comply with any of the provisions of this section, then
14 from and after any such default, said Aroostook county
15 shall not be compelled to make any further payment to said
16 railroad, in accordance with the provisions of this act, and
17 the subscription of said county to all bonds of said railroad
18 not issued shall be cancelled.

Sect. 8. In case said proposition is adopted and accepted
2 as hereinbefore provided, then the treasurer of Aroostook
3 county is hereby authorized to procure by loan on the faith
4 and responsibility of said county, money for the use of said
5 county to carry into effect the provisions of this act; and
6 for that purpose, bonds, notes or other obligations signed
7 by the said treasurer and countersigned by the chairman of
8 the board of county commissioners, shall be issued with

9 interest-bearing coupons attached, for the payment thereof,
10 at such times as they, the said commissioners, shall deem
11 expedient, but such loan shall not exceed the amount au-
12 thorized by this act.