

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1838.

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 22.

HOUSE.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED
AND THIRTY-EIGHT.

AN ACT to Incorporate the Proprietors of Edgecomb Bridge.

SECT. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House*
2 *of Representatives in Legislature assembled, That*
3 *Wilmot Wood, John Erskine, John Brooks, Gard-*
4 *ner Gove, John D. McCrate, Henry Clark, their*
5 *associates and successors, be, and they hereby are,*
6 *constituted a body corporate and politic, by the*
7 *name of the Proprietors of Edgecomb Bridge, for*
8 *the purpose of building a Bridge across Sheepscot*
9 *river, from some suitable point in Wiscasset, north-*
10 *wardly of Union wharf, to Davis's Island in*
11 *Edgecomb, and also, if they see fit, to connect by*
12 *a Bridge, the Island above named to the main land*
13 *in said Edgecomb; with power to prosecute and*
14 *defend suits at law; to have and use a common*
15 *seal; make any by-laws for the convenient man-*
16 *agement of their affairs, not repugnant to the laws*

17 of the State ; to make such contracts and purcha-
 18 ses as may be necessary for the objects of the as-
 19 sociation ; and generally to have and exercise all
 20 the powers and privileges incident to similar cor-
 21 porations.

SECT. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That said cor-
 2 poration is hereby authorized and empowered to
 3 erect a Bridge over said Sheepscot river, and the
 4 right of building and maintaining the same, is
 5 hereby fully granted to said corporation, on condi-
 6 tion that said corporation pay to the owner or own-
 7 ers of any estate upon, contiguous or near to which,
 8 said Bridge may be erected, all damage which the
 9 erection of said Bridge may cause to such estate, be-
 10 yond the benefit which said Bridge may be to such
 11 estate, to be estimated and ascertained, in case of
 12 disagreement by the parties, by three disinterested
 13 men, to be appointed by any Judge of the Supreme
 14 Judicial Court, or Court of Common Pleas, and
 15 their award in writing, under oath, to be conclu-
 16 sive. And said Bridge shall be built of good and
 17 durable materials, of the width of at least twenty-
 18 five feet, and well covered with plank, or suitable
 19 timber for such a Bridge, with sufficient rails on
 20 each side for the safety of passengers.

SECT. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That a draw
 2 shall be constructed at some suitable place in said
 3 Bridge, with piers or wharves above and below,
 4 for vessels to pass through conveniently, and the

5 Proprietors shall cause the same, day and night, to
 6 be raised and opened for the accommodation of all
 7 such vessels as may have occasion to pass through
 8 the same, free of expense, and without any unneces-
 9 sary delay; and said draw shall be at least thirty-
 10 six feet wide, and so constructed, that open boats
 11 and gondolas can conveniently pass under the
 12 same; and in case any vessel, or other craft, shall be
 13 delayed, except by stress of weather, or ice in pas-
 14 sing the draw, more than thirty minutes, after no-
 15 tice is given, that such vessel, or other craft, is de-
 16 sirable of being admitted through the draw, said
 17 corporation shall pay to the owner of such vessel,
 18 or other craft, at the rate of twenty cents per hour
 19 on every ton burthen of such vessel, or other craft,
 20 which shall so be delayed in passing the same.

SECT. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That a toll be,
 2 and hereby is established for the use and benefit
 3 of said Corporation, according to the following
 4 rates, to wit: for each foot passenger two cents;
 5 for each person and horse eight cents; for each
 6 sleigh drawn by one horse, twelve and a half cents;
 7 for each chaise, or other carriage, drawn by one
 8 horse, eighteen cents; for each coach, chariot,
 9 sleigh, phaeton or other carriage of pleasure, drawn
 10 by two horses, twenty-five cents; for each coach,
 11 sleigh or any other pleasure carriage, drawn by
 12 four horses, thirty-eight cents; for each cart, wag-
 13 gon, sleigh or sled, drawn by two beasts, twenty

14 cents, and for each additional beast five cents ; for
 15 neet cattle and horses, exclusive of those rode
 16 upon and not loaded, or in teams or carriages, two
 17 cents ; for sheep or swine one cent each ; and to
 18 each team one person and no more, shall be allowed
 19 as a driver, to pass free from toll ; and in waggons,
 20 sleighs and other carriages drawn by one horse
 21 only, no more than two persons shall be allowed to
 22 pass, without paying toll as foot passengers ; and
 23 for every hand-cart or wheelbarrow, the toll shall
 24 be five cents ; and all persons who shall actually
 25 be on military duty with their baggage, and all
 26 persons going to or returning from public worship
 27 on the Sabbath, shall be permitted to pass and
 28 repass said Bridge free of toll. And at all times,
 29 when the toll gatherer shall not attend his duty,
 30 the gate shall be left open ; and the toll shall com-
 31 mence on the day of opening the Bridge for pas-
 32 sengers, and continue for the benefit of said Cor-
 33 poration, at the rates aforesaid, for and during the
 34 term of fifty years, and shall be col-
 35 lected as shall be prescribed by said Corporation ;
 36 and at the end of years, the said
 37 Bridge shall be delivered over in good repair, to
 38 and for the use of the State : *Provided*, That said
 39 Corporation shall at all times keep the said Bridge
 40 in good and passable repair, and also shall at the
 41 place where said toll is collected, keep a sign
 42 constantly exposed to view, with the rates of toll

43 legibly written thereon: *Provided nevertheless,*
44 The Legislature may dissolve said Corporation
45 whenever it shall appear to their satisfaction, that
46 the income arising from said toll, shall have fully
47 compensated said Corporation, for all the monies
48 they may have expended in building, repairing
49 and taking care of said Bridge, together with an
50 interest at the rate of six per cent.

SECT. 5. *Be it further enacted,* That unless
2 said Bridge shall be erected and finished within
3 the term of four years from the passing of this
4 Act, then this grant shall be void.

SECT. 6. *Be it further enacted,* That the first
2 meeting of the corporators may be called at such
3 time and place, and in such manner as a majority
4 of the persons named in the first section of this
5 Act, may deem proper.

SECT. 7. *Be it further enacted,* That when-
2 ever it shall appear, to the satisfaction of the County
3 Commissioners for said county of Lincoln, that said
4 Bridge shall be erected, according to the terms and
5 provisions expressed in the foregoing sections of
6 this Act, and whenever it shall further appear to
7 said Commissioners, that public convenience may
8 require the laying out a road running Eastwardly
9 from said Bridge, and that in so doing it may be
10 necessary to pass over a creek or small branch of
11 tide waters of Sheepscot River, that then, and in
12 that case, the said County Commissioners are

13 hereby fully authorised and empowered to lay out
14 a road over said tide waters, if they shall deem it
15 expedient.

STATE OF MAINE.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 3, 1838. }

This Bill was read once, and laid on the table, and three hundred copies ordered to be printed.

(Extract from the Journal.)

GEO. C. GETCHELL, Clerk.