

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# DOCUMENTS

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# THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1867.

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1867.

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# FORTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 65.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVES relative to the assumption by the state of the  
municipal war debts.

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WHEREAS, the question of the assumption and equal-  
2 ization of the war debts of the cities, towns and plan-  
3 tations, of this state, has received the attention of sev-  
4 eral legislatures, and has the approval of a joint select  
5 committee of this legislature, provided the same be  
6 practicable, having a due regard to the principles of  
7 justice to all parties interested therein ;

*Resolved*, That the governor and council be and they  
2 are hereby authorized and directed to apply to the  
3 justices of the supreme judicial court for their opinion  
4 upon the constitutional right and power of the state to  
5 assume and equalize such expenditures, and if in the  
6 opinion of the court the state have such right and

7 power, the governor and council shall appoint a com-  
8 mission of five persons who shall have full power to  
9 investigate and obtain all requisite information in re-  
10 gard to the expenditures of cities, towns and planta-  
11 tions for war purposes, with power to send for persons  
12 and papers, and shall thereafter establish some equit-  
13 able basis for the assumption thereof, having due  
14 regard as far as practicable to the circumstances and  
15 considerations which may have attended or affected  
16 the amount of said indebtedness, such as private con-  
17 tributions and donations and the furnishing of repre-  
18 sentative substitutes, so called, and other similar causes  
19 which may have lightened the burdens of cities, towns  
20 and plantations. They shall also make particular  
21 enquiry in regard to cases, in which extravagance or  
22 lack of patriotism, or both, may have materially  
23 affected the amount of such expenditures, and shall  
24 exercise due regard to those cities, towns and planta-  
25 tions, which have paid no bounties, or have furnished  
26 a larger relative proportion without bounties.

*Resolved,* That said commission be and is hereby di-  
2 rected to consider the propriety of an equitable equal-  
3 ization of such expenditures; by designating a specific  
4 sum (not exceeding in the aggregate the gross amount  
5 of said expenditures as ascertained by the commission)

6 to be allowed for each man furnished from the several  
7 cities, towns and plantations upon their respective  
8 quotas.

*Resolved*, That said commission shall give a full ac-  
2 count and report of said enquiry, and furnish all the  
3 data, whereby they are able to arrive, at an equitable  
4 plan for assumption and equalization, and shall report  
5 the same for the action of the next legislature.

*Resolved*, That to defray the expenses incurred in the  
2 execution of the above resolves, the governor be and  
3 is hereby authorized and directed to draw his warrant  
4 from time to time, for said expenses, provided they  
5 are audited and allowed by the governor and council.

FREDERICK ROBIE,  
J. M. MASON,  
WM. PHILBRICK,  
GEO. F. WHIDDEN,  
S. R. JACKSON,  
C. B. PAINE,  
ORIN HALL,  
J. H. WEST.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. }  
February 13, 1867. }

Reported by Mr. WHIDDEN, from the minority of the Committee on Assumption of Town Debts, and ordered to be printed.

FRANKLIN M. DREW, *Clerk.*