

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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June 5, 1952

To Harlan H. Harris, Controller  
Re: Power of Highway Commission to Purchase Land

Section 7-F, Chapter 20, Revised Statutes, provides that:

"The Commission may purchase . . . land as it may deem necessary . . . for the construction, improvement and maintenance of state and state aid highways. . ."

The Supreme Court has on several occasions emphasized the fact that the law in relation to the powers of the Highway Commission should be interpreted broadly and for the purpose of accomplishing the purpose for which they were indicated, to wit, THE BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

It is obviously necessary for the Department to have Division Headquarters in order to localize administration of the maintenance and building of highways.

It is obviously economical to own the buildings and property that must be occupied for this purpose.

It is equally obvious that the purchase and use of buildings for this purpose is an act done in the course of and for the purpose of maintaining and building highways and for no other purpose.

It is my opinion that Section 7-F empowers the Commission to purchase such land and buildings as it deems necessary for this purpose.

L. Smith Dunnack  
Assistant Attorney General