

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL



RICHARD S. COHEN
JOHN M. R. PATERSON
DONALD G. ALEXANDER
DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

May 28, 1976

Honorable Robert W. Clifford
138 Lisbon Street
Lewiston, Maine 04240

Re: Veterans Memorial Bridge

Dear Bob:

Resolves, 1973, C. 16, designated the State financed bridge across the Androscoggin River. "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge," it being part of Maine State Project No. 918-1 (502), and resolved that appropriate plaques bearing the names of those 25 men of Lewiston and Auburn who gave their lives in that war be erected on the approaches to or on the bridge itself and that appropriate signs designating the name of this bridge be erected thereon "as the Department of Transportation may select."

You state that the Deputy Commissioner of Transportation indicates that the responsibility for procuring the signs and plaques is upon the two cities, and request my opinion.

It is my opinion that it is clearly the intent of the Legislature that the expense of obtaining and erecting the signs and plaques is as much to be borne by the Department of Transportation as is the selection of the location of such signs and plaques by the Department by virtue of the expressed language of the Resolve.

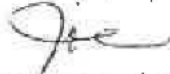
The language of two other resolves enacted effective on the same date as C. 16 is significant. Chapter 17 designates the name of Varney Seaplane Base and provides that "an appropriate plaque designating the name of the base be erected and maintained by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game at such location as the department shall elect." Chapter 19, naming the Father

Hon. Robert W. Clifford
May 28, 1975
Page 2

John J. Curran Bridge, provides that "an appropriate plaque designating the name of the bridge may be erected and maintained at no expense to the state and subject to the approval of the Department of Transportation."

Chapter 15 is a clear enactment that the expense shall be on the department. Chapter 19 just as clearly provides that the erection of the plaque shall be at no expense to the State. Chapter 15 does not expressly state who shall bear the cost. I do not believe that such cost should be placed upon Lewiston and Auburn by inference. The erection of the Memorial bridge was a State project, and the cost of the purchase and erection of the plaques and signs should be upon the Department of Transportation.

Very truly yours,



JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
Attorney General

JEB:we