

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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O N E - H U N D R E D T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 812

H. P. 591

House of Representatives, January 25, 1961

Referred to the Committee on Highways. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Prince of Harpswell.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-ONE

AN ACT to Authorize the Construction of a Causeway Connecting Cousins Island with Littlejohns Island, and a Bridge and Causeway Connecting Littlejohns with Chebeague Island.

Preamble. Two-thirds of both houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in accordance with Section 14 of Article IX of the Constitution.

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

Sec. 1. State Highway Commission authorized to construct a causeway and bridge. The State Highway Commission is authorized to construct a causeway from Cousins to Littlejohns Island and a bridge and causeway from Littlejohns to Chebeague Island, in the Towns of Cumberland and Yarmouth, in the County of Cumberland, with necessary highway approaches thereto, at an estimated cost of \$2,700,000, plus \$300,000 to be invested in the Working Capital Fund to provide for anticipated deficit in the first 4 years of operation. The cost of said bridge, with the highway approaches thereto, shall be taken and appropriated from the proceeds of bonds issued under authority of this act.

Sec. 2. Toll bridge. The State Highway Commission shall operate such bridge when constructed as a toll bridge until all the bonds issued as provided by this act shall be retired, and all the expenses incurred hereunder shall be paid. The commission shall charge and collect such tolls for the use and crossing of said bridge by vehicles and other traffic, including pedestrians, as may from time to time be determined and ordered by it, having due regard to the value of the services rendered, the cost of upkeep, maintenance, repairs and operation, and interest on the bonds issued.

Sec. 3. Treasurer of State to issue bonds. The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction of the Governor and Council, to issue from time to

time serial coupon bonds in the name and in behalf of the State to an amount not exceeding \$3,000,000 for the purpose of raising funds for the construction of said causeways and bridge, as provided in this act.

Sec. 4. Records of bonds issued to be kept by State Auditor and Treasurer. The State Auditor shall keep an account of such bonds, showing the number and amount of each, the date of countersigning, the date when payable and the date of delivery thereof to the Treasurer of State, who shall keep an account of each bond, showing the number thereof, the name of the person to whom sold, the amount received for the same, the date of sale and the date when payable.

Sec. 5. Sale, how negotiated; proceeds appropriated. The Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale of such bonds by direction of the Governor and Council; but no such bond shall be loaned, pledged or hypothecated in behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, which shall be held by the Treasurer of State and paid by him upon warrants drawn by the Governor and Council, are appropriated to be used solely for the purpose set forth in this act.

Any balance unexpended shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward to the same account to be used only for the purpose set forth herein.

Sec. 6. Proceeds of bonds not available for other purposes; must be kept from other funds. The proceeds of all bonds issued under the authority of this act, and the tolls collected thereunder shall at all times be kept distinct from all other moneys of the State and shall not be drawn upon or be available for any other purpose.

Sec. 7. Interest and debt retirement. Interest due or accruing upon any bonds issued under this act and all sums coming due for payment of bonds at maturity shall be paid by the Treasurer of State. The interest charges on the bonds issued hereunder, that accrue before sufficient funds are available from tolls to pay them in full, shall be paid from the General Highway Fund until such time as the tolls of the bridge, applicable for the payment of interest, are sufficient for this purpose, and such sums as are necessary for this purpose are appropriated out of the General Highway Fund. All sums so paid shall be returned and repaid to said General Highway Fund from the tolls received on said bridge as soon as the same shall be available.

Sec. 8. Disbursement of bond proceeds. The proceeds of such bonds shall be expended under the direction and supervision of the State Highway Commission.

Sec. 9. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue. No action shall be taken or liability incurred under this act unless and until the people of Maine shall have ratified the issuance of bonds in behalf of the State at such time and in such amounts as set forth in this act for the purpose of building a toll bridge from Chebeague to Littlejohns Island in the Towns of Cumberland and Yarmouth.

Referendum for ratification. The aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations of this State are empowered and

directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding referendum meetings of qualified electors in a manner prescribed by the Constitution covering election laws and peoples' petition for a direct initiated referendum and to give in their votes upon the acceptance or rejection of the foregoing act, and the question shall be: "Shall a bond issue be ratified in an amount not to exceed \$300,000,000 as set forth in 'An Act to Authorize the Construction of a Causeway Connecting Cousins Island with Littlejohns Island, and a Bridge and Causeway Connecting Littlejohns with Chebeague Island,' passed by the 100th Legislature?"

The inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed within a square upon their ballots their opinion of the same, those in favor of ratification voting "Yes" and those opposed to said ratification voting "No" and the ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings, and return made to the office of the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for Governor and Members of the Legislature, and the Governor and Council shall count the same and if it appears that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of the act, the Governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the act shall become effective in 30 days after the date of said proclamation.

Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, town and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing act, accompanied by a copy thereof.