

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
(EMERGENCY)

ONE-HUNDREDDTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1644

S. P. 604

In Senate, November 27, 1961

Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Davis of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-ONE

**RESOLVE, Appropriating Funds for Repairs to Foundations, Columns and
Walls in the North Wing of the Capitol Building.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the interior walls and columns in the north wing of the Capitol Building have settled to a point where remedial action should be taken at this time to prevent further damage to the building and possible injury to employees and the public; and

Whereas, the following legislation is vitally necessary to permit immediate foundation, column and wall repairs; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine, and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Bureau of Public Improvements; appropriation. Resolved: That there is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$52,000 to be expended under the direction of the Bureau of Public Improvements for repairs to the foundations, columns and walls in the north wing of the Capitol Building. Any unexpended balance at June 30, 1962 shall not lapse but shall remain a continuing carrying balance until June 30, 1963.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The North and South Wings of the State House were erected in 1911. The House of Representatives and the Maine State Library occupy the North Wing. Over the years minor settlement has taken place as is evidenced by the repairs that have been made to the walls, doors and door frames.

In 1958 the State Library was completely renovated and enlarged to include the first and second floors. At that time the structural members were investigated and found to be adequate.

In January 1961 one of the sewer lines from the State House became plugged. Excavation disclosed that this line returned under the North Wing but it could not be traced from there to the main sewer.

As an emergency measure, the Governor and the Executive Council authorized a by-pass line around the north end of the building. At the same time they approved an investigation of the foundation conditions since it was felt that the plugged sewer might be contributing to the settlement of the interior members.

Excavation and soundings have revealed that the exterior walls are bearing on ledge but the interior columns and partitions are bearing on fill material. Since the interior members are continuing to settle, it is recommended that immediate steps be taken to arrest this settlement by underpinning before conditions become more serious.