

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 140.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX.

AN ACT to authorize the formation of telegraph companies.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :

SECTION 1. Any three or more persons desirous of
2 forming a corporation for the purpose of constructing,
3 maintaining and working lines of electric telegraph,
4 may sign and acknowledge before some justice of the
5 peace, a certificate in writing, in which shall be stated
6 the name of such corporation, and the general route
7 on which such telegraph line or lines is designed to be
8 constructed, designating the points to be connected ;
9 the capital stock of such corporation ; the number of
10 shares of which said stock shall consist ; the number
11 of directors, and their names and residences, who

12 shall manage the affairs of the corporation for the first
13 year.

SECT. 2. Such certificate shall be examined by the
2 attorney general, and by him certified to be properly
3 drawn and signed, and conformable to the constitution
4 and laws, and shall then be recorded in the registry of
5 deeds in the county or counties through which such
6 lines may or are intended to be constructed, in a book
7 kept for that purpose, and a copy thereof certified by
8 the register for the county in which the business of
9 said corporation is to be done, shall be filed in the
10 secretary of state's office, and he shall enter the date
11 of filing thereon and on the original certificates, to be
12 kept by the corporation, and shall record said copy in
13 a book kept for that purpose. Said corporation shall
14 pay the attorney general and secretary of state five
15 dollars each for their services.

SECT. 3. When such certificate shall have been
2 examined, recorded and filed as aforesaid, the persons
3 who shall have signed and acknowledged the same,
4 and their successors and assigns, shall be a body politic
5 and corporate by the name stated in such certificate,
6 and by that name may sue and be sued ; may have a
7 common seal, and may alter the same at pleasure ;
8 may adopt a code of by-laws for the government of
9 said corporation ; may have, hold and convey any

10 real and personal estate whatever which may be
11 necessary for said corporation to build, establish and
12 maintain said lines and offices for the same ; may fix
13 the amount of their capital stock ; may enter into any
14 agreement or contract for the connection of their lines
15 with the lines of any other company or corporation ;
16 and said corporation shall have all the rights and
17 powers, and be subject to all the duties, obligations
18 and liabilities provided by chapters forty-six and fifty-
19 three of the revised statutes.

SECT. 4. Before building any line of telegraph, the
2 persons named in the certificate, or the directors for
3 the first year, shall file a petition with the county
4 commissioners for the county in which the business of
5 said corporation is to be done, stating accurately, the
6 points to be connected, and the entire route of said
7 line, and the necessities for the same. The commis-
8 sioners on the reception of said petition shall appoint
9 a time and place for the hearing of the parties
10 interested, giving fourteen days' notice of the same in
11 some paper published in each county through which
12 said line is to pass ; and if said commissioners shall
13 deem it advisable they shall grant permission for said
14 corporation to build and maintain a line or lines of
15 telegraph on the route designated in the petition, and

16 said line or lines shall not be built until said per-
17 mission is granted.

SECT. 5. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 22, 1876.

Reported from the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Amendments, by Mr. CHASE of Bridgton, and on his motion ordered printed, and referred to the next Legislature.

ORAMANDAL SMITH, *Clerk.*