

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

# DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

# THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING THE SESSION

A. D. 1891.



AUGUSTA:  
BURLEIGH & FLYNT, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.  
1892.

---

---

# Sixty-Fifth Legislature.

---

---

SENATE.

No. 155.

---

---

## STATE OF MAINE.

---

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

---

AN ACT to empower the County of Aroostook to aid in the construction of a Railroad through said county, and to acquire and hold Preferred Stock of the Company building such Railroad.

---

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

SECTION 1. The county of Aroostook is hereby authorized to aid in the construction of a railroad through said county, by subscribing for and purchasing preferred stock of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Company, to an amount equal to five per centum of the valuation of said county as established by the legislature in 1891, but not to exceed the sum of five hundred thousand dollars in all, and the annual net earnings of said railroad shall be

9 applied to the payment of a dividend upon said preferred  
10 stock, to the amount of five per cent, before any divi-  
11 dend shall be declared or paid upon the other stock of  
12 said railroad company, but at no time shall the dividends  
13 on the common stock be greater than the dividends on the  
14 preferred stock.

SECT. 2. There shall be submitted to the voters of the  
2 several towns and organized plantations in said county,  
3 within ninety days after the approval of this act, the fol-  
4 lowing proposition: "Shall the county of Aroostook sub-  
5 scribe for and purchase preferred stock of the Bangor and  
6 Aroostook Railroad Company, to an amount equal to five  
7 per centum of the valuation of said county, as established  
8 by the legislature in 1891, but not to exceed the sum of  
9 five hundred thousand dollars in all?" And it is hereby  
10 made the duty of the county commissioners of said county  
11 to appoint a day within that time for meetings to vote  
12 thereon; and to notify the selectmen of towns and asses-  
13 sors of plantations thereof, leaving a sufficient time for  
14 calling said meetings in the usual form for town meetings.  
15 Said commissioners shall cause to be prepared printed  
16 forms for the warrants and returns of said meetings and  
17 transmit them with their notifications to town and planta-  
18 tion officers, as above prescribed.

SECT. 3. The selectmen of towns and assessors of plan-  
2 tations in said county shall call meetings on the day  
3 appointed, by issuing and posting warrants therefor, as  
4 for other town meetings. No such meeting shall be opened  
5 before ten o'clock in the forenoon or later than one o'clock  
6 in the afternoon and the polls shall be kept open until five  
7 o'clock in the afternoon and then be closed.

SECT. 4. At said meetings, the vote shall be taken by  
2 printed or written ballots, and those in favor of said  
3 proposition shall vote yes, and those opposed shall vote  
4 no, and the ballots cast shall be sorted and counted and  
5 the vote declared in open meeting. The municipal  
6 officers shall preside as at state elections, and make return  
7 thereof to the county commissioners by depositing in some  
8 post office in said county, within twenty-four hours after  
9 the close of said poll, their return of the votes cast post-  
10 paid, directed to the clerk of courts at Houlton in said  
11 county, to be transmitted by mail; or personally deliver  
12 the same to said clerk within that time.

SECT. 5. The county commissioners of said county  
2 shall meet at the court house in Houlton ten days after  
3 said meetings, and canvass the returns and declare the  
4 result, and the result shall then be recorded by the clerk  
5 of courts and be certified on the record by said commis-  
6 sioners and clerk, which said record shall be the only  
7 record required of the votes cast under this act, and in  
8 case a majority of the ballots cast and returned as afore-  
9 said, are in favor of said proposition, said commissioners  
10 shall carry out the provisions of this act, as ratified by  
11 such vote in the manner hereinafter provided. But if a  
12 majority of the ballots cast and returned as aforesaid are  
13 opposed to said proposition, then after the expiration of  
14 six months from the date of said first meeting, said com-  
15 missioners upon the written application of one hundred  
16 or more legal voters residing in said county, shall appoint  
17 a second day for meeting to vote upon said proposition,  
18 in the same manner hereinbefore provided for, but no  
19 more than two votes shall be thus taken upon this propo-  
20 sition.

SECT. 6. In case said proposition is adopted as herein-  
2 before provided, and accepted by said railroad company,  
3 then said commissioners shall cause subscription to be made  
4 in behalf of said county, for preferred stock of said Bangor  
5 and Aroostook Railroad Company to the amount authorized  
6 by this act, and payment therefor shall be made by the  
7 county treasurer to the treasurer of said railroad company,  
8 upon the orders of said commissioners, which shall be  
9 issued as follows, to wit: After the commencement of  
10 actual work upon the lines of said railroad within the  
11 county of Aroostook, whenever said railroad company  
12 shall have graded any section of five miles of its line  
13 between the west line of said county and the Saint John  
14 river in or near the town of Van Buren, by way of Houl-  
15 ton, Presque Isle or Fort Fairfield and Caribou, payment  
16 shall be due and be made at the rate of four thousand  
17 dollars per mile graded, until the whole amount of the  
18 par value of said preferred stock subscribed for, be thus  
19 paid; and for each payment thus made, shares of said  
20 preferred stock of said Bangor and Aroostook Railroad  
21 Company shall be issued and delivered to said county  
22 treasurer to the same amount in par value thereof, which  
23 shall be issued to the inhabitants of said county.

SECT. 7. Unless said Bangor and Aroostook Railroad  
2 Company shall have filed with the county commissioners  
3 of said county, the location of its line through Aroostook  
4 county from the west line thereof to the Saint John river  
5 at or near the town of Van Buren by way of Houlton,  
6 Presque Isle and Caribou villages, or by way of Houlton,  
7 Fort Fairfield and Caribou villages according to actual  
8 surveys, accompanied by the affidavit of the majority of

9 the directors of said company, that they intend in good  
10 faith, to proceed forthwith with the construction of said  
11 line of railroad, and shall have begun the work of actual  
12 construction of said line within said county, on or before  
13 the first day of July, 1892, then all the provisions of this  
14 act shall become null and void, and said company shall  
15 thereby forfeit all rights herein conferred or granted by  
16 the action of said county of Aroostook under the provi-  
17 sions of this act.

SECT. 8. In case said proposition is adopted and accepted  
2 as hereinbefore provided, then the treasurer of Aroostook  
3 county is hereby authorized to procure by loan on the faith  
4 and responsibility of said county, money for the use of said  
5 county to carry into effect the provisions of this act; and  
6 for that purpose notes or obligations signed by the said  
7 treasurer and countersigned by the chairman of the board  
8 of county commissioners, shall be issued with interest  
9 bearing coupons attached, for the payment thereof, at  
10 such times as they, the said commissioners, shall deem  
11 expedient, but such loan shall not exceed the amount  
12 authorized by this act.

SECT. 9. The preferred stock thus subscribed and paid  
2 for by the county of Aroostook shall not be voted upon  
3 in stockholders meeting of said company except on the  
4 question of the sale or lease of said railroad. On either  
5 of said questions said preferred stock may be voted upon  
6 in stockholders meeting, as a majority of the said three  
7 directors elected by said Aroostook county as hereinafter  
8 provided may determine; and said county shall be  
9 entitled to representation by three members upon the  
10 board of directors of said railroad company, to be chosen

11 by the senators and representatives to the State legislature  
12 from said county, who shall meet for that purpose on the  
13 last Tuesday of August annually, at the court house in  
14 Houlton. The chairman of the board of county commis-  
15 sioners shall preside at said meeting and cast a deciding  
16 ballot in case of a tie vote, but not otherwise. The clerk  
17 of courts for said county shall act as recording officer and  
18 extend his record upon the record book of the court of  
19 county commissioners. The certificate of said presiding  
20 and recording officers, made and returned to said railroad  
21 company, shall constitute evidence of the due election of  
22 the directors thus elected and certified. Any citizen of  
23 Aroostook county, whether a stockholder or not, is eligi-  
24 ble to be elected as one of said directors.

SECT. 10. Said directors shall be elected by ballot, but  
2 no more than two or a majority of those chosen, shall be  
3 of one political party; and their term of office shall begin  
4 with that of the other directors of said railroad company,  
5 elected at the next annual meeting of said corporation, and  
6 in case a vacancy shall occur by reason of the death or other  
7 disability of any one of said county directors, then the  
8 county commissioners shall appoint a director to fill such  
9 vacancy, for the unexpired term.

SECT. 11. Whenever the county of Aroostook may  
2 determine to make a sale of its holding of said preferred  
3 stock of said railroad company, the corporation shall be  
4 entitled to the first option and right to purchase said pre-  
5 ferred stock at any given price; and unless a prior sale  
6 shall have been made, the said corporation shall have the  
7 right at the maturity of the county bonds hereinbefore  
8 provided for, to purchase said preferred stock by reim-



9 bursing to the county all money advanced and paid by said  
10 county therefor, together with legal interest on all sums  
11 paid on account of accrued interest coupons, deducting  
12 therefrom the proper allowances for dividends received  
13 by said county upon said preferred stock ; and whenever  
14 said preferred stock shall be thus acquired by said corpor-  
15 ation, it shall be cancelled, and the right to issue preferred  
16 stock shall cease.

SECT. 12. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

---

IN SENATE, March 5, 1891.

Reported by Mr. POWERS, from Committee on the Judiciary, and laid  
on table to be printed under joint rules.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary.*