

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

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SENATE.

No. 236.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT entitled "An Act to call a special meeting of the  
legal voters in the county of York to vote upon the removal  
of the county buildings from Alfred to Biddeford or Saco."

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

SECTION 1. The selectmen of the several towns, and  
2 the mayors and aldermen of the cities of Biddeford and  
3 Saco, in the county of York, shall call a meeting of the  
4 legal voters of the said several towns and cities in each of  
5 said towns and cities, on the second Tuesday of Septem-  
6 ber, A. D. 1895; and said meeting shall be notified and  
7 called in the same manner as meetings are notified and  
8 called for the election of state and county officers, to vote  
9 upon the following three questions, to wit:

No. 1. Shall the shire town of York county be changed?

No. 2. If it is to be changed, shall Biddeford be the  
12 shire town?

No. 3. If it is to be changed, shall Saco be the shire  
14 town?

SECT. 2. The secretary of state shall furnish for the  
2 purpose named in section one of this act ballots upon each  
3 of which shall be printed :

No. 1. Shall the shire town of York county be changed?  
5 Yes. No.

No. 2. If it is to be changed, shall Biddeford be the  
7 shire town? Yes. No.

No. 3. If it is to be changed, shall Saco be the shire  
9 town? Yes. No.

Said ballots shall be prepared and printed in the same  
11 manner as is provided for use in the election of state and  
12 county officers, and the balloting, receiving, sorting and  
13 counting of said ballots, and the return of the same shall  
14 be in the same manner as the same is done at the meetings  
15 for the election of state and county officers.

The governor and council at their first meeting after  
17 said ballots have been so cast, counted and returned, shall  
18 canvass said returns in the same manner as they canvass  
19 the returns for the election of state and county officers,  
20 and shall within ten days after such canvass shall have  
21 been completed, certify to the county commissioners of  
22 said York county, the result of said votes.

SECT. 3. If it appear by said certificate that a majority  
2 of the persons voting upon question numbered one have  
3 answered "no" thereto, then Alfred shall remain the shire  
4 town and no further action shall be taken under this act ;  
5 but if it appear that a majority of the persons voting upon

6 question numbered one have answered "yes" thereto,  
7 and if it also appear that more persons have voted "yes"  
8 in answer to question numbered two than in answer to  
9 question numbered three, then Biddeford shall become  
10 and be the shire town of said county from and after the  
11 first day of January, A. D., 1897; but if it appear from  
12 said certificate that more persons have voted "yes" in  
13 answer to question numbered three than in answer to  
14 question numbered two then Saco shall become and be  
15 the shire town of said county from and after the first day  
16 of January, A. D. 1897.

SECT. 4. Before said first day of January, A. D. 1897,  
2 the county commissioners of said county of York, or a  
3 majority of them are authorized, empowered and required  
4 to purchase a lot and cause to be erected at said Bidde-  
5 ford or Saco as aforesaid provided and selected, buildings  
6 suitable for a court house, county offices, and a jail, for  
7 the use of said county, and to procure a loan of money  
8 for that purpose, and assess taxes for the same in such  
9 amounts and at such times as in their judgment shall be  
10 most advantageous to the interests of said county.

SECT. 5. The amount to be raised by the county com-  
2 missioners by assessment or loan to carry out the provisions  
3 of this bill shall not exceed the sum of forty thousand dol-  
4 lars.

SECT. 6. The county commissioners shall forthwith  
2 after such buildings as are specified in section four of this  
3 act have been provided, cause the records in all the county  
4 offices, including the registry of deeds, registry of pro-  
5 bate, the records of the county commissioners, and the  
6 records and files of all the courts which now are or have

7 been held in said county, to be removed to the places  
8 prepared for them at said Biddeford or Saco as herein  
9 provided and selected, and said commissioners shall cause  
10 notice of the fact that suitable buildings have been pro-  
11 vided as provided in section four of this act, and of the  
12 removal of the records aforesaid, by publication in all the  
13 public newspapers printed in said county, also in the  
14 state paper, and to be continued in all the daily and  
15 weekly issues of each of said papers for three weeks suc-  
16 cessively thereafter.

SECT. 7. The several terms of the supreme judicial  
2 court which are now required to be holden at Alfred and  
3 at Saco for the county of York shall after the first day of  
4 January, 1897, be holden at Biddeford or Saco as herein  
5 provided, and selected, in said county; and all writs,  
6 processes of any kind, and all proceedings shall after that  
7 time be made returnable accordingly; and all writs,  
8 processes and proceedings commenced prior to that time  
9 which would otherwise be returnable to the January A.  
10 D. 1897 term of said court at said Saco, shall be entered  
11 and have day, and be returned in said court at said Bidde-  
12 ford or Saco as herein provided and selected.

SECT. 8. All the provisions of this act shall be void  
2 and of no effect unless the city determined as aforesaid to  
3 become the shire town of said county, or the citizens of  
4 such city, shall raise before the first day of January, 1896,  
5 the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars and appropriate and  
6 pay the same to the treasurer of said county to be used in  
7 defraying the expense of erecting said county buildings.

SECT. 9. Said cities of Biddeford and Saco, and either  
2 of them, are hereby authorized to raise by loan or other-

3 wise said sum of twenty-five thousand dollars for the pur-  
4 pose named in section eight. Taxes therefor may be  
5 assessed at such times and in such amounts as such city  
6 may determine.

SECT. 10. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent here-  
2 with are herewith repealed.

SECT. 11. This act shall take effect when approved.

## REPORT "A."

The undersigned, members of the York County Delegation, to which was referred an act entitled "An Act to call a special meeting of the legal voters of the county of York to vote upon the removal of the county buildings from Alfred to Biddeford or Saco, and providing that all terms of the Supreme Judicial Court be holden in Biddeford or Saco," have had the same under consideration and ask leave to report that the same ought to pass in a new draft, copy of which is herewith submitted under title of "An Act to call a special meeting of the legal voters of the county of York to vote upon the removal of the county buildings from Alfred to Biddeford or Saco."

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

It is practically admitted by both petitioners and remonstrants, that the building at Alfred containing the court room and county offices is not fitted for present necessities and that an amount of money, either larger or smaller, should be expended in remodeling and enlarging the same.

The question of a removal of the shire town from Alfred to Biddeford or Saco has been agitated, more or less for years, and is now very earnestly and seriously discussed by the inhabitants of the county generally.

It is said on the one hand that a change is necessary, that public convenience and necessity require the shire town to be in a different locality; on the other hand it is said no change is required.

The inhabitants of the county know best which of the two positions is true. They are the ones whose interests are to be effected and they are to pay the bills. No other body can as well say what will be best for the people of York county as the inhabitants themselves.

From the hundreds of signers of petitions on file, from the large number of responsible citizens of the county present at our hearing, and from the statements made by our constituents at home, we feel that we are warranted in submitting to the voters of York county, the question whether or not there shall be a change of the shire town, and if there shall be, to what place it shall be changed.

It is well for the county that the question be put at rest by a popular vote, and that this be done before any expenditures are made upon the present buildings at Alfred.

A guarantee signed by responsible citizens of Saco is hereby appended and made a part of this statement of facts. C. H. Prescott, George H. Boothby, Frank H. Cousens, H. A. G. Milliken, Alfred R. Smith, William S. Wells, Daniel A. Doyle, A. M. Welch.



For a valuable consideration, we citizens of Saco, hereby agree with the present board of county commissioners of York county or their successors, that we will pay before the first day of January, 1896, the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars to the treasurer of said county to be used in defraying the expense of erecting the county buildings. Provided and on condition that section eight of an act to change the shire town of York county, now pending in the legislature of this state before the delegation of York county, be amended so as to require thirty-five thousand dollars to be paid instead of twenty-five thousand, as it now reads and on the further conditions that it shall be determined that Saco is to become the shire town of said county and that the city of Saco shall neglect or refuse to raise, appropriate and pay thirty-five thousand dollars as aforesaid.

Witness our hands and one common seal this 9th day of March, 1895. Albert H. Gilman, H. Fairfield, Frank Foss, A. G. Prentiss, Enoch Lowell, Augustus Lord, Charles A. Milliken, L. L. Milliken, George E. Twombly, Thomas H. Wood, William S. Thompson, Charles T. Reynolds, Philip C. Tapley, James W. Littlefield, George F. Owen, Edward W. Vinton, Gilman N. Deering, Chas. L. Bachelder, Lora D. Dennett, Edwin F. Smith, Edwin W. Vinton, William Stackpole, Herbert H. Dame, Ephraim H. Floyd, John M. Webster, Ira R. Mayer, Winfred W. Roberts, Ernest L. Morrill, Jasper D. Cochrane.

## REPORT "B."

The York County Delegation to which was referred the bill of the legislature relating to "Calling a special meeting of the legal voters in the county of York to vote upon the removal of the county buildings from Alfred to Biddeford or Saco, and providing that all terms of the Supreme Judicial Court be holden in Biddeford or Saco," have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report that legislation thereon is inexpedient.

HIGGINS,  
MITCHELL,  
GARNER,  
ROBERTS,  
MOULTON,  
STANLEY,  
CLARK,  
HURD.



STATE OF MAINE.]

IN SENATE, March 15, 1895.]

[ Pending acceptance, on motion by Mr. PRESCOTT of York, laid on table to be printed.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary.*