

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

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# Seventieth Legislature.

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HOUSE.

No. 278

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of aid in building a highway bridge across  
the Aroostook river at Washburn.

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*Resolved,* That the sum of five thousand dollars be and  
2 hereby is appropriated, from any unexpended moneys in the  
3 treasury, to aid in building a highway bridge across the  
4 Aroostook river, in the town of Washburn, in the county of  
5 Aroostook.

Provided, a sum of money be raised by the town or other-  
7 wise, which, together with the amount herein appropriated,  
8 shall be sufficient to fully complete said bridge by the first  
9 day of January, nineteen hundred and three, without further  
10 aid from the state.

Provided also, that said bridge shall be built of steel or  
12 iron, upon sufficient piers and abutments, from plans of a

13 competent bridge engineer, to be approved by the governor  
14 and council.

Provided further, that said bridge shall be kept in repair  
16 at the expense of the town of Washburn, and that the county  
17 of Aroostook is hereby authorized to aid in the construction  
18 of said bridge to the amount of one thousand dollars, all to  
19 be expended under the direction of the commissioners of  
20 Aroostook county.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The town of Washburn has long maintained a ferry across the Aroostook river at that place. For ten years past they have made this a free ferry during the day time, the cost having averaged \$291.45 per year for the ten years, a total of \$2,914.50. The man employed was hired at low wages, with the privilege of collecting tolls during the night time for his own benefit.

The valuation of the town, as established by the state assessors in 1900, is \$231,722; by town assessors, \$211,244. Population in 1900, 1,225. Number of polls, 270. Rate of taxation, 26½ mills.

The length of span required for proposed bridge is 430 feet. Length of approach on the west side, 120 feet, or a total of 550 feet of bridge construction. The bridge, such as is necessary to accommodate the increased travel, will cost at a very low estimate \$15,000, and, if a steel bridge is built, nearly \$25,000.

It is impossible for the town to raise sufficient money by taxation or by loan to build such a bridge. Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) has already been raised by subscription, which amount can be added to somewhat. If the state will make an appropriation of \$10,000, the town agrees, either by direct taxation, loan or subscription, to build a substantial steel bridge across the river.

The necessity of this bridge arises in consequence of quite a large part of the population of the town of Washburn, together with Castle Hill and Mapleton, being obliged to cross the river at this point in order to reach a grist mill and market; and, during several weeks in the fall and again in the spring, owing to ice, the crossing is either very dangerous or altogether impossible.

The total number of people that the bridge will accommodate will be from 10,000 to 15,000, but a small portion of whom would be obliged to contribute to the building of this bridge.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

AUGUSTA, March 1, 1901.

Reported by Mr. THORNTON of Ashland, from Committee on Ways  
and Bridges, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*