

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

HOUSE.

No. 120

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of aid in building a highway bridge across
the Sebasticook river in the town of Benton.

Resolved, That the sum of six thousand dollars to be paid,
2 three thousand dollars in the year nineteen hundred and five,
3 three thousand dollars in the year nineteen hundred and six,
4 be and hereby is appropriated from any unexpended moneys
5 in the treasury, to aid in building a highway bridge across
6 the Sebasticook river in the town of Benton in the county
7 of Kennebec.

Provided, a sum of money be raised by the county, town or
9 otherwise, which, together with the amount herein appropri-
10 ated, shall be sufficient to complete said bridge, within two
11 years from the date of the approval of this resolve, without
12 further aid from the State.

Provided also, that the location and erection of said bridge
14 shall be under the supervision of the county commissioners
15 of Kennebec county and one commissioner to be appointed
16 by the governor and council to serve without pay, and be
17 built of steel or iron not less than sixteen feet wide upon the
18 stone piers and abutments, upon plans of a competent bridge
19 engineer, to be approved by the governor and council, and
20 that said bridge shall be completed, opened to the public and
21 accepted by the governor and council before the last install-
22 ment, above provided for, shall be paid. All moneys under
23 this resolve shall be paid upon vouchers satisfactory to the
24 governor and council.

Provided also, that said bridge shall be built on the basis of
26 a cost of twelve thousand dollars, and that the amount paid
27 by the State under this resolve shall not exceed one-half the
28 cost.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The present valuation of the town of Benton is four hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$428,000). This is based upon cash value or property. The number of inhabitants is ten hundred and ninety-seven (1,097). Indebtedness of the town is fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). The number of miles of highway within these limits is fifty. The number of large bridges maintained is five. Its western boundary is the Kennebec river, and the town is required to maintain one-third of the steel bridge across the Kennebec from the Benton shore to Bunker's island in the town of Fairfield. The Benton-Fairfield bridge was carried away by a freshet in the year 1896. The Sebasticook river crosses the town from northeast to southwest. The town is required to maintain a bridge across the Sebasticook river at a point about two miles and a half east of Fairfield. During its existence as a town this bridge has been carried away five times. The last one at this point was a steel structure which cost the town somewhere about ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). It was destroyed by flood in the year 1901 and has not since been rebuilt. The town asks aid to rebuild at this point.

The resolve which accompanies provides for State aid to the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in 1905, and three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in 1906. The structure as planned by the town will cost thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000). This amount will enable the town to build a bridge high enough to avoid destruction by freshets. The travel over this thoroughfare is almost altogether from outside the limits of the town. People living in Unity, Albion, North Winslow, North China, Unity plantation, Troy, Freedom and part of Dixmont and Thorndike, seeking the markets of Fairfield and Waterville, have to travel by this route. The town will be unable to build the bridge without State aid. In the nine years last past the town of Benton has expended twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) upon its bridges.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Augusta, February 10, 1905.

Reported by Mr. DAVIS from Committee on Ways and Bridges and
ordered printed under joint rules.

E. M. THOMPSON, *Clerk.*