

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# SEVENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE.

No. 334

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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STATEMENT OF FACTS ACCOMPANYING RESOLVE  
IN FAVOR OF AID IN BUILDING A HIGHWAY  
BRIDGE ACROSS THE KENNEBEC RIVER  
BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF BINGHAM AND  
CONCORD. HOUSE DOCUMENT No. 265.

The Kennebec river is the dividing line between the towns of Bingham and Concord in Somerset county. The river at this point is crossed by a ferry, this ferry being the only means of public communication between these towns. There is no business place in the town of Concord and most of the inhabitants, as well as those of the plantations north of this point, have their business center at Bingham. This ferry is very inconvenient for public travel, especially at certain periods of the year. From the first of May to the last of July and sometimes later, yearly, during the log driving season, teams are often obliged to wait from one to six hours before they can get across the river, and during all this time there is no crossing after sunset, except in the most urgent cases. And again, when the river is closing in the winter and the ice going out in the spring, the crossing is often dangerous for weeks at a time, and it is impossible to cross

the river with teams, no matter how urgent the case may be. At such times as this the need of the services of a physician is a serious matter to the inhabitants on the west side of the river, the nearest physician on that side residing some fifteen miles away. It is believed that lives have been sacrificed in certain cases, when it has been impossible to obtain medical attendance.

There is no bridge across the Kennebec river above this point, and the nearest bridge below is nearly twenty miles distant. The towns of Bingham and Concord are not the only towns to be benefited by a bridge, as it will also be a great convenience to all the towns in northern Somerset from Skowhegan to The Forks on both sides of the Kennebec. This highway is also the public thoroughfare of travel from the Bangor and Piscataquis Railroad to Farmington in Franklin county. At certain times of year it is also a favorite route for hunters and sportsmen to the Rowe and Carry ponds and other places of interest on the west side of the river.

The town of Concord contains about three hundred inhabitants, with a valuation of about \$65,000, and about fifty miles of highway to keep in repair. The town of Bingham has a population of eight hundred and forty, with a valuation of about \$260,000.

We claim the ferry above mentioned to be entirely inadequate to the public needs and the two small towns of Bingham and Concord are not financially able to build the proposed bridge without assistance from the State.



STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Augusta, March 2, 1905.

Presented by Mr. HIGGINS of Limerick and ordered printed.

E. M. THOMPSON, *Clerk.*