

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

HOUSE.

No. 578

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND SEVEN.

AN ACT to provide a way to free toll bridges.

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

Section 1. The county commissioners of any county, in
2 which a toll bridge exists or may hereafter be located, are
3 hereby authorized to lay out a county road across any toll
4 bridge and approaches thereto, in their county, upon petition
5 therefor, after notice and hearing in the manner required
6 by the general laws of the State, regulating the laying out
7 of highways. Such petition shall bear the signatures of not
8 less than twenty taxpayers, qualified voters of said county,
9 representing that the said bridge is necessary to the accom-

10 modation of public travel and that the payment of tolls over
11 such bridge is burdensome to the traveling public, and pray-
12 ing that the same shall be taken as a county bridge. The
13 damages for laying out said highway shall be ascertained,
14 determined and paid in the same manner as in taking lands
15 for highways, and persons and corporations aggrieved shall
16 have the same rights of appeal to be enforced in the same
17 manner as in the case of highways.

Sect. 2. In the event that the county commissioners shall
2 decide to make said bridge a county bridge, said commis-
3 sioners may, for the purpose of defraying the cost or damage
4 for the taking and repairs of said bridge, maintain the same
5 for a period not exceeding six years, as a toll bridge, if, in
6 their opinion, such is necessary and for the best interests of
7 the county. All money received for tolls after such taking
8 shall be set aside as fast as accumulated, together with inter-
9 est and accretions, and shall constitute a sinking fund for
10 the payment of any bonds issued or other indebtedness in-
11 curred by the county for damages or expenses in taking said
12 bridge.

Sect. 3. For the foregoing purposes, as soon as the county
2 commissioners shall certify to the Governor and Council
3 that they have laid out a public way across said toll bridge
4 and paid the damages therefor as in the case of highways
5 and abolished the tolls thereof, they may apportion not ex-
6 ceeding one-third of the sum so expended for damages aside
7 from tolls received among the several towns benefited, having

8 regard also for their calculation and circumstances, whether
9 such bridge shall be within or partly within the boundaries
10 of such town or not, and thereafter such bridge and its
11 approaches shall be public highway, and shall be kept safe
12 and convenient for public travel by said commissioners, and
13 maintained by the county free of toll.

Sect. 4. When a petition is presented respecting a toll
2 bridge in two counties, the same shall have the signatures of
3 at least twenty qualified persons in each county. The com-
4 missioners receiving the petition may call a meeting of the
5 commissioners of both counties as provided by Revised Stat-
6 utes, Chapter 23, Section 12, and they shall proceed in the
7 manner provided in the case of ways in two or more coun-
8 ties. Damages shall be apportioned between the two coun-
9 ties in proportion to their last state valuation prior to such
10 location, and among the several towns in the manner pro-
11 vided by the preceding section.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Augusta, March 15, 1907.

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

E. M. THOMPSON, *Clerk.*