

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

No. 248

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to amend section twenty-four of chapter two of the
Revised Statutes, establishing the seat of government.

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

Section 1. Section twenty-four of chapter two of the
2 Revised Statutes is hereby amended by striking out the word
3 "Augusta" in the first line thereof and inserting the word
4 'Portland,' so that said section as amended shall read as
5 follows:

'Sect. 24. The city of Portland shall be the seat of govern-
7 ment, until otherwise provided by the legislature.'

Sect. 2. Within thirty days after the approval of this act
2 by the Governor, the Governor, the President of the Senate
3 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall

4 jointly appoint, and the Governor shall commission not less
5 than three nor more than seven citizens of the State, who,
6 when so appointed and commissioned, shall constitute a
7 commission with full power and authority to determine upon
8 the suitability of, and, if found suitable, to accept a lot as
9 a site for a capitol in said city of Portland, to be conveyed
10 to the State by said city of Portland as hereinafter provided,
11 and further with full power and authority to consider and
12 adopt plans for the construction of a capitol upon said lot,
13 including the excavation and grading of said lot and the
14 equipment and furnishing of said capitol, and to make all
15 contracts on behalf of the State and to do all other things
16 necessary or essential to a full and complete construction,
17 equipment and furnishing of said capitol in accordance with
18 said plans and modifications thereof to be adopted by said
19 commission. Said commission may act by a majority of its
20 members and, upon the approval and acceptance of this act
21 by the legal voters of the State as hereinafter provided and
22 upon the tender of a conveyance to the State by said city
23 of Portland of a lot, or one of several lots, for a site for a
24 capitol, as hereinafter provided, shall at once proceed to
25 determine the suitability of said lot or the suitability and
26 superiority of one of said several lots, and having so deter-
27 mined the suitability and superiority of one such lot to accept
28 the same and thereafter, upon payment by said city of Port-
29 land into the State treasury, for the use of the State, of the
30 sum of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, as herein-

31 after provided, shall at once proceed with the construction,
32 equipment and furnishing of a capitol upon said lot in accord-
33 ance with the power and authority hereinbefore in this sec-
34 tion conferred upon them. *Provided, however,* that said
35 commissioners shall, in no event, have power to expend or
36 incur indebtedness on behalf of the State under this act in
37 excess of the amount to be paid by the said city of Portland
38 into the State treasury for the purposes specified in section
39 five of this act and the additional amount appropriated under
40 section three of this act.

Sect. 3. In addition to any sums to be paid by the city
2 of Portland to the State treasurer, as hereinafter provided,
3 the sum of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars is
4 hereby appropriated from any moneys in the State treasury
5 not otherwise appropriated for each of the years nineteen
6 hundred seven, nineteen hundred eight, nineteen hundred
7 nine and nineteen hundred ten, for the excavation and grad-
8 ing of the lot selected by said commissioners in said city of
9 Portland and for the building, furnishing and equipment of
10 said capitol thereon. In the event that said commissioners,
11 in the due prosecution of the work authorized hereunder,
12 shall find necessity therefor, the State treasurer is hereby
13 authorized to make a temporary loan or temporary loans, in
14 no event, however, to exceed in the aggregate the sum appro-
15 priated by the State under this section, and to devote the
16 proceeds thereof to the uses and purposes for which said
17 appropriations are made. Said loans shall be paid from said
18 appropriations as the same shall become available.

Sect. 4. Except as to the appointment and commissioning
2 of commissioners as hereinbefore in section two provided,
3 this act shall not take effect unless accepted and approved
4 by a majority vote of the legal voters of the State, voting
5 at an election to be specially called and held for the purpose
6 on the first Monday of June, nineteen hundred seven. Due
7 proclamation for such special election shall be made by the
8 Governor and said election shall be called, notified and con-
9 ducted in the several cities and towns in said State pursuant
10 to the provisions of the statutes relating to elections for the
11 determination of questions submitted to the people by the
12 legislature. The Secretary of State shall reduce the subject
13 matter of this act to the following question: "Shall the act
14 to change the seat of government from Augusta to Portland
15 be accepted?" and the voters shall indicate by a cross placed
16 over the words "yes" or "no" their opinion of the same.
17 The ballots shall be prepared and distributed and the votes
18 cast shall be counted, declared and record thereof made by
19 the several cities and towns as in an election for governor;
20 provided, however, that the clerks of the several cities and
21 towns shall make return of the votes cast to the Secretary
22 of State and such returns shall be opened and canvassed and
23 the result declared by the Governor and Council as in the
24 case of a special election to fill a vacancy in the representa-
25 tion of the State in the National House of Representatives.

Sect. 5. This act shall in no event be of force or effect,
2 except to authorize the appointment and commissioning of

3 commissioners as provided in section two and the ordering
4 and holding of a special election of the legal voters of the
5 State with reference to the adoption and acceptance of the
6 act, as provided in Section 4, unless the said city of Portland
7 shall, on or before the first day of November, 1907, convey
8 or cause to be conveyed to said State, free of expense to
9 said State, a lot suitable in the judgment of said commis-
10 sioners, for a site for said capitol in said city of Portland,
11 and in addition thereto shall pay into the State treasury the
12 sum of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the use
13 of said State in the excavation and grading of said lot and
14 the construction, equipment and furnishing of a capitol
15 thereon.

Sect. 6. This act shall take effect (1) to authorize the
2 appointment and commissioning of commissioners under sec-
3 tion two, when approved by the Governor; (2) to authorize
4 the said commission to proceed with the acceptance of a lot
5 and the construction, equipment and furnishing of a capitol
6 thereon, when this act shall be approved and accepted by a
7 majority of the legal voters of the State voting thereon as
8 provided in section four and when the city of Portland shall
9 have complied with all the conditions imposed upon it by
10 section five; (3) to change the seat of government from
11 Augusta to Portland on January 1st, 1910.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 13, 1907.

Reported by a part of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds on order relating to change of seat of government (report "A") and laid on table to be printed under joint rules, after accepting report "A".

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary.*