

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 14

In Senate, January 27, 1915.

Ordered, That five hundred copies be printed and that the same be referred to the Committee on Ways and Bridges.

Committee on Reference.

Presented by Mr. Boynton of Lincoln.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE for aid in rebuilding a bridge between the island town of Southport and the town of Boothbay Harbor.

Resolved, That there be and hereby is appropriated for
2 the year nineteen hundred and fifteen, the sum of ten thou-
3 sand dollars for the purpose of rebuilding the bridge across
4 Townsend Gut, so called, between the island town of South-
5 port and the town of Boothbay Harbor, in the county of
6 Lincoln. The towns of Boothbay Harbor and Southport
7 are hereby directed to raise and appropriate the sum of five
8 thousand dollars each, in the year nineteen hundred and
9 fifteen and each town shall pay the said sum so raised into
10 the state treasury on or before the first day of October,
11 A. D. 1915. The total sum so appropriated shall be ex-
12 pended under the direction of the state highway commis-
13 sion.

Said town of Southport shall make said bridge a free
15 bridge. The highway commission shall open and establish
16 said bridge as a state aid highway. Said bridge shall be
17 maintained and kept in repair by said town of Southport
18 as a state aid highway. The town of Southport by its
19 municipal officers shall employ a suitable draw tender to
20 open and close the draw in said bridge. The town of
21 Boothbay Harbor shall annually pay to the town of South-
22 port the sum of three hundred dollars toward the salary
23 of its draw tender.

In the event of the failure of either of the towns above
25 mentioned to raise and appropriate the amount required to
26 be raised, the highway commission is hereby directed to
27 rebuild said bridge at an expense not to exceed twenty
28 thousand dollars, using therefor the sum hereby appropri-
29 ated by the state, and any other moneys in the state treas-
30 ury not otherwise appropriated, and shall collect from such
31 town so failing to pay into the state treasury on or before
32 October 1, the sum, which it is authorized and directed to
33 raise and appropriate, in an action of debt in the name of
34 the state highway commission, for the benefit of the state.

The amount paid by the town of Southport to the Squirrel
36 Island Village Corporation for the year nineteen hundred
37 and fifteen, under the provisions of chapter twelve of the
38 private and special laws of nineteen hundred and nine, and
39 the amount paid to the Capitol Island Village Corporation
40 for the year nineteen hundred and fifteen, under the pro-

41 visions of chapter eighty-seven of the private and special
42 laws of nineteen hundred and thirteen, shall also be exclu-
43 sive of the amount said town of Southport is required to
44 raise under this resolve in addition to the state and county
45 tax as provided in said chapters above referred to. The
46 amount paid said corporations from year to year after the
47 year nineteen hundred and fifteen shall also be exclusive of
48 the amounts said town of Southport is required to raise to
49 pay its draw tender and for keeping the bridge in repair.

The amount paid by the town of Boothbay Harbor to the
51 Isle of Springs Association for the year nineteen hundred
52 and fifteen under the provisions of chapter one hundred
53 and forty-two of the private and special laws of nineteen
54 hundred and three, and the amount paid to Bayville Village
55 Corporation for the year nineteen hundred and fifteen un-
56 der the provisions of chapter twenty-seven of the private
57 and special laws of nineteen hundred and eleven, shall also
58 be exclusive of the amount said town of Boothbay Harbor
59 is required to raise under this resolve in addition to the
60 state and county tax as provided in said chapters above
61 referred to. The amount paid to the said corporations
62 from year to year after the year nineteen hundred and
63 fifteen shall also be exclusive of the amounts said town of
64 Boothbay Harbor is required to raise to pay to the town
65 of Southport toward the salary of the draw tender.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The island of Southport is separated from the main land by a channel about four hundred and seventy feet wide.

The town of Southport built a toll bridge across this channel about twenty years ago and still maintains such toll bridge. The bridge is getting old and unsafe and must be rebuilt. People in this locality believe that a free bridge should replace the toll bridge.

Since Southport built the toll bridge, by Legislative enactment the town has been obliged to help maintain a bridge across the Sheepscot river between the towns of Wiscasset and Edgecomb. See Sec. 2 of Chap 353, Private and Special Laws of 1905.

Quite a part of the valuation of the town of Southport is on the islands of Capitol and Squirrel. By Chap. 12 of the Private and Special Laws of 1909, the town is obliged to pay over to the Squirrel Island Village Corporation a sum equal to seventy-five per centum of all the taxes assessed upon the inhabitants and estates upon Squirrel Island, exclusive of state and county tax. By Chap. 87 of the Private and Special Laws of 1913 the town of Southport is obliged to pay to Capitol Island Village Corporation a sum equal to sixty per centum of the taxes collected from inhabitants and estates on Capitol Island.

Under the present conditions the town of Southport is not able to build the bridge without help, either as a toll bridge or a free bridge.

The bridge connects Southport with the town of Boothbay Harbor and it seems only fair that the town of Boothbay Harbor should help build and maintain the bridge. With a little help from the state and help from the town of Boothbay Harbor a free bridge can be built and maintained.