

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 243

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*In Senate, March 3, 1915.*

*Reported by Sen. Conant from Committee on Ways and  
Bridges, and ordered printed under joint rules.*

*W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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RESOLVE, in favor of aid in rebuilding Spruce Head Bridge  
in the town of South Thomaston.

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*Resolved,* That there be and hereby is appropriated the  
2 sum of twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2500) to aid in re-  
3 building Spruce Head bridge, so called, in the town of South  
4 Thomaston, provided that there be appropriated by the  
5 town of South Thomaston, or otherwise, the sum of twenty-  
6 five hundred dollars (\$2500) for the same purpose; pro-  
7 vided also that any additional cost for said bridge above  
8 five thousand dollars (\$5000) shall be borne by the town  
9 of South Thomaston; the expenditure of all sums to be  
10 under the supervision of the state highway commission; pro-  
11 vided further that said bridge shall be kept in such repair  
12 as may be directed by the state highway commission at the  
13 expense of said town of South Thomaston.



## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Spruce Head bridge was built in 1897 by order of the county commissioners, the town, by an overwhelming vote, having refused to build the same. It extends from the village of Seal Harbor, in South Thomaston, across the tide waters to Spruce Head island, and is 300 feet in length. It is a steel structure consisting of six spans of 50 feet, with a draw in the center. The bridge is supported by granite piers.

Owing to the action of the salt water the framework has decayed to such an extent that the bridge is unsafe for travel, and the town still owes a part of its original bonded debt created when the bridge was constructed. The old bridge is hardly worth repairing, and the town feels that it will be an economy to build a permanent structure of granite, having a steel span containing the draw in the center.

This the town is unable to do without burdening its people excessively, as the town now has a high tax rate on top of a high valuation. Neither is the town able to rebuild the steel structure at the original cost. The town has no factories or shops distributing a regular payroll, and there are few people in the town of large means.