

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 346

In Senate, March 16, 1917.

*Reported by Mr. Wood from Committee on Legal Affairs
and ordered printed under joint rules.*

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

AN ACT to establish the Mount Desert Bridge District, for
the purpose of acquiring, freeing and reconstructing the
Mount Desert Toll Bridge in the Town of Trenton in
Hancock County.

WHEREAS said Mount Desert Toll Bridge which this
act contemplates making a free bridge, is the only means of
access by land to the large and populous island of Mount De-
sert, and

WHEREAS said bridge is in a dilapidated, weak and un-
safe condition and wholly inadequate to accommodate the large

summer traffic, and from reasons both of public safety and convenience the work of reconstruction should be begun forthwith, and

WHEREAS by reason of the foregoing facts an emergency exists such as is contemplated by the Constitution and the passage of this act is immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, Now Therefore

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Section 1. The towns of Eden, Mount Desert, Southwest Harbor, Tremont and Trenton, in the county of Hancock, and the people within the same, shall constitute a public municipal corporation under the name of the Mount Desert Bridge District, for the purpose of acquiring the bridge, approaches and toll house, together with all franchises belonging to the same, owned by the Mount Desert Toll Bridge Co., extending across the Narrows, so-called, from the main land to Thompson's Island, all in the town of Trenton, or for the construction of a bridge in a new location across said Narrows.

Sect. 2. Said bridge district is hereby empowered, if the trustees hereinafter provided for deem best, to purchase said existing bridge, and pay therefor a sum not exceeding five thousand dollars.

Sect. 3. Said Mount Desert Bridge District shall have the right of eminent domain to take all land necessary for laying out a location for a new bridge, approaches and buildings for tools, draw tender and any other buildings

5 necessary for the use of said district, should the construc-
6 tion of a new bridge be deemed more expedient than the
7 acquisition of the now existing bridge.

Sect. 4. All affairs of said bridge district shall be man-
2 aged by a board of trustees composed of ten members, five
3 chosen by Eden, two by Mount Desert, one by Southwest
4 Harbor, one by Tremont and one by Trenton; said trus-
5 tees may choose a treasurer, clerk and such other officers
6 and agents as they deem necessary for the proper man-
7 agement of the affairs of the district, and may establish a
8 code of by-laws and all necessary rules and regulations for
9 the proper conduct of the affairs of said district.

Sect. 5. Said bridge district is hereby authorized and
2 empowered to acquire by purchase or by the exercise of
3 the right of eminent domain, which right is hereby ex-
4 pressly delegated to said bridge district for said pur-
5 pose, the toll bridge approaches and toll house, together
6 with all franchises belonging to the same, owned by the
7 Mount Desert Bridge Company extending across the Nar-
8 rows, so-called, from the mainland to Thompson's Island
9 in the town of Trenton. Said Mount Desert Bridge Com-
10 pany is hereby authorized to sell and transfer all its fran-
11 chises and property to said Mount Desert Bridge District.

Sect. 6. For accomplishing the purposes of this act said
2 bridge district, through its trustees, is authorized to bor-
3 row money temporarily and issue therefor the interest bear-
4 ing negotiable notes of the district and for the purpose of

5 refunding or paying said indebtedness, may from time to
6 time issue negotiable bonds of the district to an amount
7 necessary in the judgment of the trustees therefor; said
8 negotiable notes and bonds shall be legal obligations of the
9 bridge district which is hereby declared a quasi-municipal
10 corporation within the meaning of the Revised Statutes.

Sect. 7. The property of said district shall be exempt
2 from all taxation in the town or towns where said bridge
3 district is located.

Sect. 8. Said bridge shall be a free bridge.

Sect. 9. All incidental powers, rights and privileges neces-
2 sary to the accomplishment of the main object herein set
3 forth are granted to the public municipal corporation hereby
4 created.

Sect. 10. Seven or more of said trustees shall have full
2 power to act notwithstanding any vacancy in the board
3 caused by failure of any town to choose a member thereof,
4 or however otherwise caused. In each year the trustees
5 shall determine the amount required for interest and sink-
6 ing fund and shall apportion said amount among the towns
7 in the district in accordance with their respective valuations
8 as fixed by the board of state assessors. On or before April
9 first in each year the trustees shall certify the sum appor-
10 tioned to each of said towns to the assessors thereof. It
11 shall be the duty of the assessors to include said sum in their
12 commitment and each town shall be liable to pay to said
13 trustees its said proportion on or before August first.

Sect. 11. The bridge shall be maintained as provided under Chapter seventy-two of the Private and Special Laws of nineteen hundred fifteen and in the same manner as though said bridge district had not been formed.

Sect. 12. Chapter three hundred and nineteen of the Public Laws of nineteen hundred fifteen known as the bridge law, shall apply to said bridge district in the same manner as it does to a town or city and said bridge district shall furnish fifty per cent. of the cost of construction, the county thirty per cent. and the state twenty per cent.

Sect. 13. The board provided by Section two of said chapter three hundred nineteen shall consist of said trustees together with the county commissioners for said county of Hancock and the state highway commission.

Sect. 14. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.