

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 159

House of Representatives, February 18, 1921.

Referred to Committee on Towns and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Baker of Steuben.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE

AN ACT Authorizing the Towns to Unite for the Purpose of
Employing a Superintendent of Highways and Bridges.

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

Section 1. The selectmen of not less than three nor more
2 than five adjoining towns may unite in the employment of
3 a superintendent of highways and bridges, provided they
4 have been so authorized by a vote of their towns at the reg-
5 ular town meetings, or by special town meetings called for
6 that purpose.

Sect. 2. The selectmen of the towns comprising a union
2 shall form a joint committee, for the purposes of this sec-
3 tion and the two following sections, said joint committee

4 shall be held as the agents of each town comprising the union,
5 ion, provided however, that the selectmen of any town may
6 authorize one of its members to act for the selectmen in the
7 meetings of the joint committee, and in such case, the member
8 so authorized, may cast the votes for the full membership
9 of his selectmen. Said joint committee shall meet annually
10 on the first Tuesday in April at a place agreed upon
11 by the chairmen of the selectmen of the several towns comprising
12 the union, and shall organize by the choice of a chairman and
13 secretary. Said joint committee shall determine the relative amount
14 of service to be performed by the superintendent in each town,
15 fix his salary, and provide for the payment of all the necessary
16 expenses incurred while the performance of his duties, which shall
17 be a town charge. Apportion the amounts to be paid by the several
18 towns for the superintendent's salary, which shall be determined
19 by dividing the entire amount of salary paid by the several
20 towns comprising the union in the proportion of each town's
21 valuation made by the state assessors in the next prior
22 year. Said joint committee at the time of its organization
23 or as soon thereafter as possible, and whenever a vacancy shall
24 occur, shall choose by a major vote, a superintendent of
25 highways and bridges for a term not to exceed three years,
26 provided however that said committee, by a two-thirds vote
27 of its full membership, after due notice and investigation,
28 may, discharge a superintendent of highways and bridges before
29 the expiration of the term for which he was elected, and after
30 such discharge the salary of said

32 superintendent shall cease. In the election of a superintend-
33 ent of highways and bridges, the selectmen of each town
34 comprising the union shall have a vote proportional to the
35 town's share of the expenditure for the superintendent's
36 salary.

Sect. 3. The chairman and secretary of said joint commit-
2 tee shall certify under oath to the state highway commis-
3 sion, upon forms prescribed by said state highway commis-
4 sion, in accordance with the provisions hereof, that under
5 the provisions of the two preceding sections, that a union
6 of towns has been effected, and that a superintendent of
7 highways and bridges has been emp'oyed for one or more
8 years, then, upon the approval of said certificate by the
9 state highway commission, and the presentation thereof to
10 the governor and council, a warrant shall be drawn upon the
11 treasurer of state for the payment to the treasurers of the
12 several towns of a sum equal to one-half of the amount ex-
13 pended for the superintendent's salary by each of the sev-
14 eral towns comprising the union, provided that the amount
15 so paid for a single union of towns shall not exceed seven
16 hundred and fifty dollars to all the towns comprising the
17 union in any one year.

Sect. 4. Persons emp'oyed to serve as superintendents of
2 highways and bridges shall have had practical experience
3 in the construction and maintenance of highways and
4 bridges, and devote their entire time to supervision. They
5 shall have general charge of all highways and bridges in
6 their district and see that the same are improved, repaired

7 and maintained as provided by law, and have general su-
8 pervision of the work of constructing, improving and re-
9 pairing bridges and town highways in their districts, per-
10 form such other duties and have such other powers as may
11 be imposed or conferred by law, or by the joint committee
12 of the several towns comprising the union, including the
13 powers and duties exercised by the town road commission-
14 ers.

Sect. 5. Chapter ninety-two, public laws nineteen hun-
2 dred and nineteen shall not apply to towns forming a union,
3 in accordance with the provisions of the preceding sections,
4 for such a time as that union may continue in force.