

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 227

House of Representatives, March 3, 1921.

Reported by Mr. Hinckley from Committee on Judiciary and ordered printed under joint rules.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Authorize the Town of Bristol to Pay Certain Obligations Incurred by Its Citizens in Opposing the Division of Said Town.

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

The inhabitants of the town of Bristol are hereby authorized, at any legal meeting of the voters of said town, called by a warrant containing an article for the purpose, to provide for the payment from the treasury of said town of all liabilities now outstanding incurred in the year nineteen hundred and fifteen by certain of its citizens in opposing the division of said town and the incorporation of the town of South Bristol, together with accrued interest thereon.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In the year nineteen hundred and fifteen, the legislature of Maine, by chapter one hundred and thirty-three of the private and special laws of that year, passed an act to divide the town of Bristol and incorporate the town of South Bristol. This action on the part of the legislature was strenuously opposed by prominent citizens of the town, both while the act was pending before the legislature and after its enactment while it was subject to referendum. In so doing, it was necessary for those interested in the opposition to employ counsel and incur other substantial expenditure, and to provide for the payment of liabilities so incurred, several citizens of the town united in signing notes to procure funds for such purpose. These notes were three in number, two of them under date of June twenty-six, nineteen hundred and fifteen, aggregating two hundred and fifty dollars, and one under date of December six, nineteen hundred and fifteen, amounting to two hundred dollars. All three notes bore interest at the rate of six per cent per annum and nothing has been paid upon any of them. The proceeds of these notes were used for the purpose above mentioned. At the annual meeting of the voters of the town of Bristol, held on March three, nineteen hundred and nineteen, called by a warrant containing an article for the purpose, the following action was taken:

Voted: "To reimburse all men whose names are on the referendum notes;

Voted that the money to pay the same be taken from the town treasury if legal."

At the annual meeting of the voters of the town of Bristol, held March eleven, nineteen hundred and twenty, called by warrant containing an article for the purpose, the following action was taken:

"Voted that the selectmen be authorized to adopt any legal method by which the outstanding notes and interest incurred through the referendum may be paid."

No action has been taken under either of the foregoing votes, for the reason that the town officials are in doubt as to

the legality of the vote or their right to use the funds of the town for the purpose indicated.

There was no opposition at either of the town meetings at which the foregoing action was taken to the passage of the votes above quoted, and so far as is known no reason for the inaction of the municipal officers in the premises, except their fear that the payment of these claims in pursuance of the above votes might not be authorized by law. It is to confer such authority that the passage of this legislation is asked.