

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 5

House of Representatives, Jan. 22, 1923.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and five hundred copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Rounds of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLVE, Appropriating Money for Rebuilding Steamship
Sheds at the State Pier.

EMERGENCY PREAMBLE. Whereas, the legislature of 1919 by chapter eighty-four of the Private and Special Laws of 1919 and amendment thereof by chapter one hundred and twenty-three of the Private and Special Laws of the special session of 1919 created a commission known as the "Directors of the Port of Portland" to secure, construct, equip and operate at the Port of Portland on behalf of the State of Maine piers and port and terminal facilities and generally to develop the facilities and commerce of the Port of Portland for the

benefit of the State of Maine and said directors have in accordance therewith secured, constructed and equipped a pier and port and terminal facilities;

And whereas, in addition to the newly constructed pier, the said directors acquired on behalf of the State of Maine, by gift of the cities of Portland and South Portland without expense or obligation to the State of Maine, a certain adjacent property, being the westerly part of Franklin Wharf, so-called, upon which are sheds and other structures now being used by the Eastern Steamship Lines, Inc., for their Boston boat service, which property is in bad condition and requires immediate complete reconstruction or very extensive repairs;

And whereas, as nearly as can be determined, part of said Franklin Wharf was built in 1870 or 1871, and the remaining portion between 1880 and 1884, and it has been found that a small wood destroying insect known as limnoria is very destructive to wooden structures in sea water along the North Atlantic coast; so destructive, in fact, that the piles driven only twenty years ago at a portion of Pier No. 7 of the Grand Trunk wharves at said Portland were so far destroyed by said limnoria that a large part of said pier recently collapsed, with serious risk to life and property, and whereas the piles at Franklin Wharf have been in the water from forty to fifty years, there is grave danger that at any time the said wharf or a portion of it may collapse;

And whereas, the wooden sheds and structures were built to accommodate types of boats not now used and are entirely

inadequate for the use now being made and that desired to be made of them, and the structures themselves, including the planking of the wharf, are badly rotted, torn away and the roofs settled and leaking;

And whereas, the Eastern Steamship Lines, Inc., have entered into a contract with the Directors of the Port of Portland, agreeing that if the directors will rebuild the said wharf and structures so that it will be adapted to the use desired and will complete such reconstruction within a year from December 15, 1922, the said company will take a lease of the premises at a rental based on 10 per cent of the cost of reconstruction and will give adequate service between Portland and Boston and so far as possible will re-establish the service formerly given by the International line to Eastport and points east.

And whereas, a reconstruction of that part of the property not as yet reconstructed is necessary and essential to carrying out the purposes of said chapter eighty-four and is necessary for the safety of the lives and property of persons using the said westerly side of Franklin Wharf, since even extensive repairs can be only of temporary nature; and it is necessary to allow at least nine months for planning and completing such construction;

And whereas, the funds at the disposal of the said directors for the development of the Port of Portland have been exhausted and the said directors are without funds to carry out the above-mentioned construction and reconstruction; or even for essential temporary repairs;

And whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section sixteen of article thirty-one of the Constitution of the State of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety; now therefore,

Resolved: That there be, and there hereby is, appropriated, out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of rebuilding the steamship sheds upon the westerly side of Franklin Wharf at said State Pier the sum of one hundred sixty-five thousand dollars, said sum to be expended under the authority and direction of the Directors of the Port of Portland.

EMERGENCY CLAUSE. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.