

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

NEW DRAFT

EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 302

In Senate, March 28, 1923.

Report A from Committee on Public Utilities and Ways
and Bridges and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

L. ERNEST THORNTON, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide for Building a Bridge across the Kennebec
River between the City of Bath and the Town of Woolwich.

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

Section 1. The governor, with advice and consent of the
2 council, shall appoint one person from the county of Saga-
3 dahoc and one from either the county of Knox or the
4 county of Lincoln, who, with the state highway commission,
5 shall constitute a board to be known as directors of Kenne-
6 bec bridge, hereinafter called the directors. The terms of
7 office of those first appointed by the governor shall be one
8 for the term of two years and one for the term of four
9 years, and all directors thereafter shall be for the term of

10 four years. In all cases, a member shall serve until his
11 successor is appointed and qualified. The two directors
12 appointed by the governor shall receive an annual salary
13 of three hundred dollars while the bridge is under con-
14 struction and an annual salary of twenty-five dollars after
15 the bridge is complete.

Sect. 2. The directors shall locate said bridge at a point
2 on the Woolwich side of said Kennebec river at a point
3 within fifteen hundred feet of the present railroad ferry
4 landing and the bridge shall cross the river to the Bath
5 shore at a point between Oak street and the present rail-
6 road wharf. They shall cause to be made all necessary
7 plans for piers and for a bridge that shall accomodate all
8 travel across the river between said city of Bath and town
9 of Woolwich, including the passage of railroad trains. Said
10 bridge shall be of such width as shall be necessary to ac-
11 comodate railroad trains, and a sufficient roadway for teams
12 and automobiles to pass and repass, and a passageway for
13 persons on foot. Said bridge shall contain such draw as
14 shall be satisfactory to the United States war department.
15 Before completing the plans, the directors shall thoroughly
16 inform themselves as to the present and probable future
17 requirements of such bridge.

The directors shall appoint such engineers, agents, assis-
2 tants and other employees as they may deem necessary.
3 They shall commence work on plans and construction as
4 soon as this act takes effect. After the completion of the

5 bridge and its approaches, the directors shall employ neces-
6 sary draw tenders and look after the repairs of the bridge
7 and arrange for rents from the railroad and other utilities
8 wishing to use the same.

Sect. 3. The directors may take, or acquire by purchase,
2 or by right of eminent domain, or otherwise, and hold, such
3 real estate and such rights and easements therein as the
4 directors may from time to time consider necessary for
5 the construction of the bridge, and for the necessary high-
6 ways and approaches to said bridge, and railroad connec-
7 tions therewith, and may lay out and build such highway
8 approaches and railroad connections as in the opinion of
9 the directors may seem necessary. Any property taken by
10 right of eminent domain shall be taken in the manner pro-
11 vided by law in the case of land taken for laying out of
12 highways.

Sect. 4. From the proceeds of bonds issued by the State
2 of Maine for the purposes of this act as hereinafter pro-
3 vided, the treasurer of the state shall pay all damages to
4 property sustained by any person, firm or corporation by
5 the taking of any land or any right or easement therein by
6 either of the methods provided in section three. Any per-
7 son, firm or corporation sustaining damages as aforesaid
8 and failing to agree with the directors as to the amount
9 thereof, may have the same assessed and determined in
10 the manner provided by law in the case of land taken for
11 laying out of highways.

Sect. 5. The directors shall have power to lease for a
2 period not exceeding forty years to the Maine Central Rail-
3 road or its successors or assigns, or to any other public
4 utility, under such terms and conditions as they may pre-
5 scribe, the right to use a portion of said bridge and its ap-
6 proaches for the purpose of laying tracks and for their
7 trains to pass over said bridge. They may also lease for
8 the same period rights to telephone companies, telegraph
9 companies, or water companies, and other utilities, rights
10 to use such bridge.

Sect. 6. The directors shall on the first day of December
2 of each year submit to the governor and council a report,
3 which report shall contain a statement of the doings of the
4 directors during the preceding year, and such recommenda-
5 tions as to legislation as shall in their opinion be necessary
6 or expedient to enable them to better administer the af-
7 fairs of said bridge and to regulate the use thereof under
8 their direction.

Sect. 7. The directors may apply to Congress for an ap-
2 propriation to assist in the construction of said bridge and
3 any funds received shall be used either in the construction
4 or in retiring bonds already issued by the State of Maine.

Sect. 8. From the proceeds of bonds issued by the State
2 of Maine for the purpose of building and maintaining a
3 bridge across the Kennebec river between the city of Bath
4 and the town of Woolwich, as embodied in a resolution of
5 the legislature proposing an amendment to article nine of

6 the constitution, if said amendment shall be adopted, the
7 treasurer is hereby authorized, with the approval of the
8 governor and council, to disburse and pay said moneys as
9 are herein authorized for the purpose of carrying out the
10 provisions of this act. The said treasurer is further em-
11 powered to issue bonds as authorized by said proposed
12 amendment, if the same be adopted, in such form and in
13 such amounts, not exceeding the total set forth in said pro-
14 posed amendment, from time to time, as the governor and
15 council may determine.

Sect. 9. Said bridge shall be a state toll bridge, and the
2 public utilities commission is hereby authorized and em-
3 powered to fix, in the first instance, and, thereafter, to reg-
4 ulate the tolls to be paid for the use of said bridge.

Sect. 10. This act shall not take effect until it shall have
2 been determined by the governor and council that the entire
3 cost, to the state, of construction and equipment, of said
4 bridge and its approaches, shall not exceed the sum of three
5 million dollars; nor until the Maine Central Railroad shall
6 have obligated itself to pay an annual rental of one hundred
7 thousand dollars for the use of said bridge for passage
8 across said river at the points where it shall have been lo-
9 cated.