

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**EIGHTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE**

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**H. P. No. 75**

**H. D. No. 20**

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House of Representatives, Jan. 22, 1925.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Bridges and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for Concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Leland of Sangerville.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

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

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

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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 a  
3 superintendent of ways and bridges, provided they have  
4 been so authorized by a vote of their towns at the regular  
5 town meetings, or by special town meetings called for that  
6 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

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

33 men of each town comprising the union shall have a vote  
34 proportional to the town's share of the expenditure for the  
35 superintendent's salary.

Sect. 3. The chairman and secretary of said joint com-  
2 mittee shall certify under oath to the state highway com-  
3 mission, upon forms prescribed by said state highway com-  
4 mission, in accordance with the provisions hereof, and under  
5 the provisions of the two preceding sections, that a union  
6 of towns has been effected, and that a superintendent of  
7 ways and bridges has been employed for a term not to  
8 exceed three years, then, upon the approval of said certifi-  
9 cate by the state highway commission, and the presenta-  
10 tion thereof to the governor and council, a warrant shall  
11 be drawn upon the treasurer of state for the payment to  
12 the treasurers of the several towns of a sum equal to one-  
13 half of the amount expended for the superintendent's salary  
14 by each of the several towns comprising the union, pro-  
15 vided that the amount so paid for a single union of towns  
16 shall not exceed one thousand dollars to all the towns com-  
17 prising the union in any one year; and provided further  
18 that payments hereunder shall be deducted from various  
19 funds appropriated by the state for the assistance of towns  
20 in highway and bridge work; to be determined by the  
21 amount of time actually spent by said superintendent on  
22 the several classes of ways; and such sums as may be re-  
23 quired under this provision are hereby appropriated.

Sect. 4. Persons employed to serve as superintendents of  
2 ways and bridges shall have had practical experience in the

3 construction and maintenance of highways and bridges and  
4 devote their entire time to supervision in the towns com-  
5 prising the union. Except as otherwise provided in Chap-  
6 ter 25 R. S. and Chapter 193 P. L. 1923, they shall have  
7 general charge of all ways and bridges in their district and  
8 see that the same are improved, repaired and maintained as  
9 provided by law, and have general supervision of the work  
10 of constructing, improving and repairing bridges and town  
11 ways in their districts, perform such other duties and have  
12 such other powers as may be imposed or conferred by law,  
13 or by the joint committee of the several towns comprising  
14 the union, including the powers and duties exercised by the  
15 town road commissioners.

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