

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

H. P. No. 702

H. D. No. 167

House of Representatives, Feb. 17, 1925.

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

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Littlefield of Kennebunk.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Enlarge the Powers of the State Highway Police
and to Authorize the Governor and Council to Appoint Said
Police and Direct Them in the Performance of Their Duties.

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

Section 1. The governor with the advice and consent of
2 the council shall appoint a chief of the state highway police
3 who shall be commissioned and hold office for a term of
4 four years, unless sooner removed as herein provided, and
5 until his successor is appointed and qualified. He shall be
6 sworn to the faithful discharge of his duties and give bond
7 to the state in the sum of five thousand dollars, and for
8 inefficiency, wilful neglect of duty or for malfeasance in
9 office may after notice and hearing be removed by the gov-

10 ernor and council. In case of a vacancy occurring through
11 the death, resignation or removal, the governor with the
12 advice and consent of the council shall appoint a successor
13 for the whole term of four years, subject to removal as
14 aforesaid. The chief of state highway police, hereinafter re-
15 ferred to in this act as the chief, shall receive an annual
16 salary of four thousand dollars. The chief shall be the
17 executive head of the state highway police and shall ex-
18 ecute the duties of his office under the direction and sub-
19 ject to the approval of the governor and council. The chief
20 shall appoint inspectors and patrolmen, fix their salaries,
21 the appointment and salaries of said inspectors and patrol-
22 men being subject to the approval of the governor and coun-
23 cil. The inspectors and patrolmen may be removed by the
24 chief but said inspectors and patrolmen shall have the right
25 to a hearing before the governor and council, if they so
26 desire, and request is made for such hearing before the
27 governor and council within ten days after their removal
28 by the chief, but the right of said inspectors and patrolmen
29 to serve in their official capacity shall be suspended during
30 the time between their removal by the chief and final de-
31 cision by the governor and council.

Sect. 2. Wherever the words "state highway police" are
2 used in this act they shall be construed to include the chief
3 and all inspectors and patrolmen appointed by him. The
4 duties of the state highway police shall be to enforce all
5 laws of the state of Maine. The state highway police, sher-

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iffs and deputy sheriffs, constables, city marshals and deputy marshals and police officers of cities and towns shall so far as possible co-operate in the detection of crime, the arrest and prosecution of criminals, and the preservation of law and order throughout the state.

Sect. 3. Members of the state highway police may be provided at the expense of the state with a distinctive uniform and badge, and with suitable equipment for use when requisite to the performance of their official duties, all of which shall remain the property of the state.

Sect. 4. Members of the state highway police may be designated and assigned to special duty as inspectors to enforce the laws, rules and regulations relating to the registration of motor vehicles and the licensing of operators of motor vehicles, but assignment to special duty shall not curtail or impair any of their powers as state highway police. Such inspectors shall co-operate with and assist the secretary of state in the collection of fees and penalties due the state under the laws relating to the registration of motor vehicles and the licensing of operators of such vehicles.

Sect. 5. Before entering upon the duties of their office the inspectors and patrolmen shall be sworn to the faithful performance thereof and shall give bond to the state in the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) each. No inspector or member of the state highway police shall receive any fee as a witness or for making an arrest or for

7 attendance at court, but shall be paid actual costs of arrest
8 and actual expenses of travel.

Whenever any fines or penalties are imposed by any court
2 in any proceeding in which a member of said police is a
3 complainant or a witness, the court before which the case
4 is tried may tax costs for such complainant or witness in
5 the usual manner, and the member of said police entitled
6 to said costs shall duly receipt for them when paid and
7 immediately pay them over to the chief, who shall pay
8 them over to the treasurer of state.

Sect. 6. Section twenty-five, chapter two hundred and
2 eleven of the public laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-
3 one is hereby repealed.

Sect. 7. The expenses incident to carrying out the pro-
2 visions of this act shall be paid from the fees and moneys
3 received for the licensing of operators and registration of
4 motor vehicles.

Sect. 8. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith
2 are hereby repealed.