

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)

EIGHTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Senate Document

No. 282

S. P. 533

In Senate, March 24, 1927.

By unanimous consent, introduced by Senator Granville of York under suspension of rules and referred to Committee on Judiciary. 500 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Granville of York.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide for a Full Time State Highway Commission, Amending Chapter Twenty-five of the Revised Statutes Relative to State Highways.

Whereas, the adequate extension, improvement and maintenance of the highway system of this state that the same may be safe for the large and increasing travel thereon is of vital importance to all its citizens, and

Whereas, it is contemplated that large sums will be devoted to that purpose by this legislature and that the plans for the expenditure thereof must be immediately completed and work for this season begun at once, and

Whereas, the present highway commission is inadequately paid and cannot devote more than a portion of their time to the expenditure of the large sums which are intrusted to their supervision, and

Whereas, in the judgment of this legislature by reason of the foregoing facts the passage of this act is immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety and constitutes an emergency within the meaning of the constitution as amended;

Now, therefore,

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

Section 1. Section three of chapter twenty-five of the 2 revised statutes providing for the appointment of a state 3 highway commission is hereby amended so as to read as 4 follows:

'Sect. 3. The state highway commission shall consist of 2 three members elected by the legislature by joint ballot of 3 the senators and representatives in convention. This legis- 4 lature shall elect one to serve until the next regular session 5 of the legislature, one until the next following regular ses- 6 sion, and one until the next following or until their succes- 7 sors are chosen and qualified; and thereafter, as the terms 8 expire, each election shall be for the term of six years. 9 Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled for the 10 unexpired term. Vacancies occurring between regular ses- 11 sions shall be filled by the governor and council until the 12 next regular session when the vacancy shall be filled for

13 the unexpired term by the senators and representatives in
14 convention. One member shall always be a member of a
15 minority party. The member whose term is next to expire
16 shall be the chairman. The commission shall adopt and
17 have a seal, and shall keep a record of its proceedings,
18 which shall be open to public inspection during business
19 hours, and it may appoint a clerk to keep and certify
20 records and papers.

The members of the commission shall give their full time
2 to the duties of their office. No member thereof shall have
3 any official or professional connection with, or hold any
4 stock or securities in any road-building or bridge-building
5 firm or corporation engaged in work within the state of
6 Maine, nor shall he supply to the state any labor or material
7 for construction, maintenance or repair work upon ways
8 and bridges in which the state is engaged, nor shall he
9 render any professional service for or against any person,
10 firm or corporation engaged in such work, nor shall he be
11 a member of any firm which shall render any such service.
12 No member of said commission shall serve on or under
13 any committee of any political party. Any wilful violation
14 of the provisions of this chapter by any commissioner shall
15 constitute sufficient cause for his removal by the governor
16 with the advice and consent of the council.

The attorney general shall without additional compensa-
2 tion give the commission such advice and service as its attor-
3 ney as it may from time to time require.

The commission shall be furnished with suitable offices at the seat of government, and shall perform all the duties and may exercise all the powers expressly or impliedly given by this chapter and by the act entitled "An Act in Relation to Motor Vehicles and the Law of the Road." They shall make a biennial report to the legislature of their doings and the expenditures of their office, with such statement relative to the construction and maintenance of public highways and such recommendations as to the general policy of the state relative thereto as they consider appropriate. The report shall be transmitted to the secretary of state on or before the thirty-first day of December in each year. The state highway commission when appointed and qualified under this act, shall succeed to all the rights, duties and powers of the present state highway commission, and shall have full power to enforce all contracts made by it at law and in equity.'

Sect. 2. Section thirty-four of chapter one hundred and seventeen of the revised statutes is hereby amended so as to read as follows: 'The annual salary of each member of the state highway commission shall be, for the chairman five thousand dollars; for each other member four thousand five hundred dollars. They shall also receive their actual expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.' Said salaries and expenses shall be taken from any money available for maintenance of highways.

Sect. 3. In view of the emergency recited in the preamble this act shall take effect when approved.