

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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E I G H T Y - S I X T H   L E G I S L A T U R E

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Legislative Document

No. 455

H. P. 1071

House of Representatives, Feb. 7, 1933.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Lancaster of Canaan.

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S T A T E   O F   M A I N E

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T H R E E

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AN ACT Relating to Roads in Unincorporated Places.

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

**R. S. c. 13, § 56, amended.** Section 56 of chapter 13 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 56. Commissioners annually to inspect county roads, state and state aid highways in unincorporated places; assessments for repairs; agent to be appointed to superintend the repair of roads.** Said county commissioners in ~~September~~ **October** annually, by one or more of their board, shall make an inspection of all county roads, **state and state aid highways** and other roads originally located as town roads in the unincorporated townships and tracts of land in their counties and shall thereupon make an estimate of the amount needed ~~to put them in repair for repairs, maintenance, snow removal and improvements, so as to comply with the provisions of the state highway laws, and to otherwise make them so as to be safe and convenient for public travel for the following year~~ and assess thereon not exceeding 2% of the valuation thereof, and shall assess on the county the balance of said amount if said ~~assessment~~ **amount** of 2% is not sufficient to properly ~~repair said roads~~ **comply with the above requirements**; and they shall make as many divisions as are equitable, conforming as nearly as is convenient to known divisions and separate ownerships, and shall assess upon each a sum proportionate to the value

thereof; **as evidenced by the last Maine state valuation** and cause so much thereof as they deem necessary for the purpose aforesaid, to be expended on said roads within one year ~~thereafter~~ **from the date of assessment**, which assessment shall create a lien thereon for the payment thereof. They shall make such assessment ~~by the first day of each January~~ **not later than April 1st of the following year** and at the same time appoint an agent or agents, skilled in road building, not members of their board, to superintend the expenditure thereof, who shall give bonds as provided in section 54; and they shall publish a list of townships and tracts of land so assessed, with the sums so assessed on such, and the roads on which it is to be expended, in some paper printed in the county where the lands lie, three weeks successively, the last publication to be within 3 months from the date of the assessment.'

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

Section 56 was enacted many years ago to apply to roads in unincorporated places and at that time the travel was by horse-drawn vehicles, but at the present time, the methods of travel have changed so that now the travel is almost wholly by motor-driven vehicles, both in summer and in winter, which necessitates the roads being improved and maintained in better condition than in the days of the horse-drawn vehicle.

Said Section 56 does not clearly give the county commissioners authority to assess taxes in order to comply with present day conditions; which are: complying with the provisions of the State Highway Laws which require towns to contribute \$60.00 per mile for maintenance of state highways, \$30.00 per mile for maintenance of state aid highways, \$35.00 per mile for snow removal and for improvement of state aid highways.

Also, the valuation to be used in the assessment should be the last state valuation, and as the State Assessors' Report is not issued until late in January, it conflicts with using this valuation for assessment of taxes in December, as the present section calls for; hence, the change to April first.

As this section applies to roads in practically all of the northern counties in the state, these changes are asked for so as to bring the law up to date with the present methods of travel.

HENRY CROWELL,  
County Commissioner of Somerset County.  
Secretary of Maine County Commissioners' Association.