

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 342

S. P. 373

In Senate, February 5, 1935.

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

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Cowan of Lincoln.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
THIRTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT to Provide for the Building of a Highway Bridge across the  
Sheepscot River between the Towns of Wiscasset and Westport.**

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

**Sec. 1. State highway commission authorized to locate and establish bridge across Sheepscot river between Wiscasset and Westport.** The state highway commission is hereby authorized and directed to locate and establish a highway bridge to be known as "Wiscasset-Westport Bridge" across the Sheepscot river from a point in Wiscasset on the Wiscasset side of said river at the present public ferry landing, or at a point not exceeding 500 feet north of said public ferry landing, to a point in Westport on the Westport side of said river at the present public ferry landing, or at a point not exceeding 500 feet north of said public ferry landing, at a cost not to exceed \$250,000; and said commission is hereby authorized and empowered to locate and establish or cause to be located and established a public highway from said point in Wiscasset over and across said bridge and river, to said point in said Westport.

**Sec. 2. Directors of "Wiscasset-Westport Bridge."** The commission shall hereinafter be known as the "directors of the Wiscasset-Westport Bridge." After the completion of the said bridge and its approaches, the

directors shall have charge of the maintenance and management of the bridge, with full power to make and execute contracts with telephone, telegraph and water companies or other utilities who may wish to use said bridge.

**Sec. 3. Plans and specifications.** The directors shall as soon as possible after this act takes effect, secure all necessary plans and specifications for a bridge including suitable approaches, piers and abutments, said bridge to be of sufficient width and strength to insure the safe and convenient passage across said river, of teams, automobiles, trucks and all other forms of vehicular traffic. Said bridge shall contain a draw if required by the United States war department that shall be satisfactory to said department.

**Sec. 4. Right of eminent domain.** The directors may take as for public uses, acquire by purchase, by right of eminent domain or otherwise, and hold in the name of the state, such real estate and such rights and easements therein as the directors may from time to time consider necessary for the location and construction of said bridge and for the necessary highways and approaches to said bridge, and may lay out and build such highway approaches as in the opinion of the directors may seem necessary. Any property taken as for public uses and by right of eminent domain shall be taken in the manner provided by law in the case of land taken for laying out of highways.

**Sec. 5. Payment of damages.** The treasurer of state shall pay, from the funds appropriated for the purposes of this act, all damages sustained by any person, firm or corporation by the taking of any land or any right or easement therein by either of the methods provided in section 4. Any person, firm or corporation sustaining damages as aforesaid and failing to agree with the directors, as to the amount thereof, may have the same assessed and determined in the manner provided by law, in case of land taken for the laying of highways.

**Sec. 6. May apply for funds for construction from national bureau.** The directors may apply to the national bureau of public roads, in behalf of the state, for an appropriation to assist in the construction of said bridge, and any funds received from this source, shall be used either in its construction, or in reimbursing the state for money already expended for such construction. The said directors may receive from any department of the United States government funds under conditions deemed by them satisfactory to assist in the construction of said bridge and may in their discre-

tion cooperate in construction of said bridge with such department of the United States government as may seem desirable to them.

**Sec. 7. Payments of money appropriated.** From the money appropriated for the construction of said bridge the treasurer of state is hereby authorized, with the approval of the governor and council, to pay in the name of the state, in such form and in such amount not exceeding the total amount provided for in section 1, from time to time, as said directors may require and the governor and council order.

**Sec. 8. Toll bridge until state is reimbursed; funds deposited for maintenance, upkeep, etc.** Said bridge when constructed shall be operated as a toll bridge until the revenue therefrom shall amount to a sum sufficient to reimburse the state, for the amount appropriated for the purposes of this act, at which time the bridge shall be free to public travel. The directors shall charge and collect such tolls for use and crossing of said bridge by vehicles and travellers on foot, and other traffic as may from time to time be determined and ordered by the public utilities commission. The public utilities commission is hereby authorized and directed to establish and promulgate the tolls to be charged. Said commission may from time to time establish and promulgate new tolls and may provide for the issue of trip or commutation tickets at less than the regular tolls, good for a definite number of passages across said bridge within a specified time, having regard to the value of the service rendered, and the requirements for upkeep, maintenance, repairs and operation of said bridge, and the providing for the payment of interest on the amount appropriated. All money collected as tolls shall be regularly deposited by the directors, in some bank or trust company designated therefor by the governor and council, and on the 1st secular day of each month, the balance so on deposit shall be transmitted by them to the treasurer of state. From the funds so received the treasurer of state on warrants signed by the directors and approved by the governor and council and by the state auditor, shall pay all bills for maintenance, upkeep, repairs and operation of said bridge, and shall also pay the interest on the amount appropriated for the purposes of this act; any balance shall be held by him as a separate fund for the reimbursement of the amount appropriated, as provided in this act.

**Sec. 9. Act not to take effect until cost is determined.** This act shall not take effect until it shall have been determined by the directors that the entire cost to the state for the construction and equipment of said bridge shall not exceed \$250,000.

**Sec. 10. Expenses of construction to be paid from bonds proceeds.** The expenses attendant upon the construction of said bridge shall be paid from the proceeds of the bonds of the state which are devoted to the building of intrastate bridges.