

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 292**

H. P. 696

In Senate, February 2, 1939.

Referred to Committee on Claims in concurrence. 500 copies ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Mr. Hinman of Skowhegan.

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S T A T E   O F   M A I N E

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
THIRTY-NINE

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**RESOLVE, in Favor of Clyde H. Smith.**

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**Clyde H. Smith, reimbursed. Resolved:** That there be, and hereby is, appropriated to be paid to Clyde H. Smith of Skowhegan, to reimburse him for money expended for legal services in connection with the investigation by the 84th legislature of the state highway commission, the sum of \$2500; said sum to be paid from the general state funds.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

In a special message to the 84th legislature, His Excellency quoted a letter by him received from Honorable W. M. Jardine, the then Secretary of Agriculture, wherein reflection was made by him upon the integrity of the State Highway Commission, of which Mr. Smith then was a member; in his letter, Secretary Jardine said: "The integrity of the State Highway department personnel which discharges any duties in connection with the construction of Federal Aid projects thus becomes a matter of serious concern to the Federal Government. If such personnel should be corrupt, dishonest, or inefficient, the interests of the Federal Government are certain to suffer."

Without awaiting the determination of a hearing upon any charges, His Excellency requested the resignation of Clyde H. Smith from the Commission, which was not then given.

Following this special message of the Governor, a joint order was passed to investigate the State Highway Commission by a committee which was directed "to obtain, if possible, from the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Justice, and other sources, such data, evidence and information as they have in their possession, including names of witnesses, which will assist the committee in recommending the advisability and form of proceedings against the aforesaid members of the State Highway Commission or any of them, for malfeasance or misfeasance and unfitness to hold their office."

An extended hearing was held by the committee appointed under the joint order, excitement ran high, and, in order to protect his rights, his good name and his interests, Mr. Smith employed counsel.

While the investigation was exhaustive yet no wrong doing was found to have been committed by Mr. Smith and he was absolved from the commission of any illegal acts, with the result that no charges were preferred against him.

In 1935, the legislature reimbursed Edward T. Clifford, a member of the State Highway Commission with Clyde H. Smith for his counsel fees in the same investigation, as has been the practice in this state on other occasions.