

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

Legislative Document

No. 902

H. P. 1754

House of Representatives, February 14, 1939.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. McGlauffin of Portland.

S T A T E O F M A I N E

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-NINE

**RESOLVE, in Favor of Building a New Bridge over the Navigable Waters
of Casco Bay in Portland.**

Bridge over waters of Casco bay, appropriation for. Resolved: That there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$2,000,000 for the building of a new bridge over the navigable waters of Casco bay in Portland in the county of Cumberland and state of Maine, just easterly of the present Tukey's bridge upon the state highway known as Washington avenue in the city of Portland, in the county of Cumberland, a main thoroughfare connecting this part of the state with all other points of Maine; provided, however, that this resolve shall not take effect unless or until a constitutional amendment proposed by this legislature for the increase of the bond issue for an additional \$2,000,000 is accepted by the people..

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Tukey's bridge is one of the oldest bridges in the state of Maine. It is located wholly within the city of Portland in the northeasterly part thereof and is an integral part of Washington avenue, one of the main thoroughfares of the state. The bridge has occasioned vast expenditures of money for repairs, and in 1896-1898 was reconstructed by the city of Portland at a considerable expense. It lies over the tide waters of Casco bay and contains a draw for the accommodation of water craft over these navigable waters. In 1909, the public works department of the city of Portland, then in charge of the project, reported:

"The department has been subjected to great annoyance and expense during the past two years on account of the draw span not being properly balanced. This fact, combined with a weakness in the attachment of the operating pinion, has shifted the weight of the superstructure to the East Deering side of the draw."

This was repaired at considerable expense and represents the last major outlay for the improvement of the bridge. On account of its constantly being used for the purposes of travel by persons passing through Portland to points north in the state of Maine, its present dangerous condition invites serious consequences. Careful examination establishes the need within the near future of a new bridge at this point.

The proposed bridge, lying about two hundred feet easterly of the present Tukey's bridge, will supersede the latter and obviate the expensive repairs which will be necessary in the very near future. It will also serve to develop this section of the state industrially and for residential purposes, in addition to providing a safe and convenient highway from the industrial center of Portland to other points in the state.