

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 735

S. P. 429

In Senate, February 25, 1943.

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

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Dorr of Oxford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-THREE

AN ACT Reapportioning the Expenditure of the General Highway Fund.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, the finances of the state are such as to require an immediate program of strictest economy in the management of all its affairs; and

Whereas, it is immediately necessary in accordance with the foregoing to determine the program for highway construction to be henceforth pursued so that available funds may be used to the greatest advantage and be most wisely and economically expended; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section 16 of Article XXXI of the constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

P. & S. L., 1941, c. 94, amended. Chapter 94 of the private and special laws of 1941 is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'General highway fund defined. To provide funds for the construction

of state, state aid and 3rd class highways, for the maintenance of state and state aid highways, and interstate, intrastate and international bridges, and for other items of expenditure hereinafter specified, there is hereby established a fund to be known as the general highway fund. This fund shall include all fees received from the registration of motor vehicles and licensing of operators thereof, the receipts from the tax on internal combustion engine fuels, all fines, forfeitures and costs accruing to the state under section 118 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter 189 of the public laws of 1931, and all sums received on account of the state highway commission for permits to open highways, or from other sources, the disposition of which is not otherwise designated by law.'

'After payment from said general highway fund of such sums for interest and retirement as are necessary to meet the provisions of bond issues for state highway and bridge construction, the remainder of said fund shall be segregated, apportioned and expended as follows:'

'(a) \$140,000 annually for payment of the expenses of registering motor vehicles and licensing the operators thereof.'

'(b) \$275,000 annually for the maintenance of the state police.'

'(c) \$195,000 annually for the administration of the office and carrying out the duties of the state highway commission.'

'(d) \$250,000 annually for the administration of the tax on internal combustion engine fuel, and for the payment of refunds on said tax, as provided by statute.'

'(e) \$335,000 annually for the construction of 3rd class highways as defined by section 5 of chapter 28 of the revised statutes, except that, upon petition of the selectmen of the town and approval of the highway commission, the 3rd class apportionment of any town may be expended on a state aid road, or toward the town's share of the cost of construction or reconstruction of bridges under the bridge act.'

'(f) \$50,000 annually to be used only in conjunction with federal funds for the elimination of railroad grade crossings and accompanying engineering and land damage.'

'(g) \$425,000 annually only in the case that it is necessary in the judgment of the state highway commission to match federal funds for construction of secondary roads and for the improvement of emergency military highways.'

'(h) \$450,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1944, and \$300,000 for

the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, for the construction of bridges under the general bridge act.'

'(i) \$1,800,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1944, and \$1,800,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, for the maintenance of state highways and state aid highways.'

'(j) \$220,000 annually for the maintenance of interstate, intrastate and international bridges.'

'(k) \$900,000 annually for the cost of clearing snow from highways which is borne by the state as provided by statute.'

'(l) \$25,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1944, and \$52,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, for the compensation for injuries to employees of the state highway department payable under the terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act.'

'(m) \$16,000 annually for the continuation of the highway planning survey (any part of which funds may be used to match federal funds for the purpose of carrying out said planning survey.)'

'(n) The remainder for the construction of bridges and for the maintenance of state highways and state aid highways as provided by statute to be apportioned at the discretion of the state highway commission.'

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.