

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 770

S. P. 454

In Senate, February 17, 1949

Reported by Senator Crosby of Franklin from the Committee on Ways and Bridges and printed under Joint Rule No. 10.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

AN ACT to Relieve Towns of Maintenance of State and State Aid Highways and to Provide for Construction of State Aid Highways.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, it is essential to the welfare of the several towns that they be aided by the elimination of providing funds for their share of maintenance of state aid highways and that additional funds be provided for the construction of state aid highways; and

Whereas, the towns hold their annual town meetings in March; and

Whereas, it is essential that the towns shall have knowledge of the amount to be raised for maintenance of state and state aid roads; and

Whereas, it is essential that the towns shall have knowledge of the amount to be raised for construction of state aid highways; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning 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:

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 20, § 29, amended. The 1st sentence of section 29 of chapter 20 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'If any town shall in any single year increase its appropriation for state aid

roads to an amount not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 times the maximum amount which it may annually appropriate under the provisions of section 25, the commission may, from any balance of said fund for state aid construction, after the appropriations contemplated in section 27 and subject to the provisions of section 30 as to apportionment, appropriate a like increase of state aid; such appropriation shall not deprive the town of its right to the regular annual state aid in other years; the appropriations contemplated by this section shall be united with and become a part of the joint fund referred to in section 27.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 20, § 45, amended. Section 45 of chapter 20 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 45. Failure of town to pay its portion of maintenance and snow removal. If any town fails to pay its portion of the cost of ~~the maintenance and snow removal work on its state highways or maintenance work on its state aid highways~~ on or before the 1st day of January of the following year, the same shall be collected and paid in the manner provided in section 31, and the amount so collected from such town shall be added to the fund for maintenance.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 20, § 46, amended. The 1st paragraph of section 46 of chapter 20 of the revised statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 334 of the public laws of 1945, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Improved state highways shall be continually maintained, and the snow removed from such sections of designated state highways as the commission may determine, under the direction and control of the commission at the expense of the state; except that a charge against a town for snow removal work shall be a fixed sum of \$40 per mile per year.'

Sec. 4. R. S., c. 20, § 50, amended. The 1st sentence of section 50 of chapter 20 of the revised statutes, as amended by section 3 of chapter 334 of the public laws of 1945, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Improved state aid highways shall be continually maintained under the direction and control of the commission at the expense of the state.'

Sec. 5. P. L., 1947, c. 349, § 7, repealed. Section 7 of chapter 347 of the public laws of 1947 is hereby repealed.

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