

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 242

H. P. 179

House of Representatives, January 29, 1957.

Referred to Committee on Highways. Sent up for concurrence and 750 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Baird of North Haven.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Authorize Ferry Service for North Haven, Vinalhaven, Islesboro and Swan's Island.

Preamble. Two-thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in accordance with Section 14 of Article IX of the Constitution:

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

Sec. 1. Ferry service for North Haven, Vinalhaven, Islesboro and Swan's Island. It shall be the duty of the State Highway Commission to operate a ferry line or lines as a part of the state highway system between the mainland and the towns of North Haven, Vinalhaven, Islesboro and Swan's Island for the purpose of transporting vehicles, freight and passengers to and from said towns.

Sec. 2. Purchase of equipment and property. Suitable boats, wharves, landing places and all other necessary appurtenances shall be secured by the State Highway Commission through purchase, lease, condemnation or agreement so as to adequately provide for transporting vehicles, freight and passengers to and from said towns of North Haven, Vinalhaven, Islesboro and Swan's Island at an estimated cost of \$2,500,000. Said cost shall be taken and appropriated from the proceeds of bonds issued under authority of this act.

Sec. 3. Advisory committee. There is established an advisory committee, which shall consist of 7 members, one from the town of North Haven, one from the town of Vinalhaven, one from the town of Islesboro and one from the town of Swan's Island and 3 members from the mainland of Knox, Waldo and Hancock counties, and which shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council. The members of the advisory committee shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed actual and necessary expenses in the performance of their duties.

The advisory committee shall meet upon call of the Chairman of the State Highway Commission, or upon call of a majority of their own members, shall act in an advisory capacity to the State Highway Commission in establishing and operating the ferry line or lines, and may make such recommendations as it deems appropriate.

Sec. 4. Tolls. The State Highway Commission shall operate such ferry line or lines as a toll system to retire the bonds issued as provided by this act and to provide for all the expenses and maintenance incurred hereunder. The Commission shall charge and collect such tolls for the use of such ferry line or lines by vehicles, freight and passengers as may from time to time be determined and ordered by it, having due regard to the value of the services rendered, the cost of upkeep, maintenance, repairs and operation, and interest on the bonds issued.

Sec. 5. Treasurer of State to issue bonds. The Treasurer of State is hereby authorized, under the direction of the Governor and Council, to issue from time to time serial coupon bonds in the name and behalf of the State to an amount not exceeding \$2,500,000 for the purpose of raising funds for the establishment and operation of said ferry line or lines.

Sec. 6. Records of bonds issued to be kept by State Auditor and Treasurer. The State Auditor shall keep an account of such bonds, showing the number and amount of each, the date of countersigning, the date when payable and the date of delivery thereof to the Treasurer of State, who shall keep an account of each bond, showing the number thereof, the name of the person to whom sold, the amount received for the same, the date of sale and the date when payable.

Sec. 7. Sale, how negotiated; proceeds appropriated. The Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale of such bonds by direction of the Governor and Council; but no such bond shall be loaned, pledged or hypothecated in behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sales of such bonds, which shall be held by the Treasurer of State and paid by him upon warrants drawn by the Governor and Council are hereby appropriated to be used solely for the purposes set forth in this act. Any balance unexpended shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward to the same account to be used only for the purposes set forth herein.

Sec. 8. Proceeds of bonds not available for other purposes; must be kept separate from other funds. The proceeds of all bonds issued under the authority of this act, and the tolls collected hereunder, shall at all times be kept distinct from all other moneys of the State and shall not be drawn upon or be available for any other purpose.

Sec. 9. Interest and debt retirement. Interest due or accruing upon any bonds issued under the provisions of this act and all sums coming due for payment of bonds at maturity shall be paid by the Treasurer of State. The interest charges on the bonds issued hereunder, that accrue before sufficient funds are available from tolls to pay them in full, shall be paid from the general highway fund until such time as the tolls of the ferry line or lines, applicable for the payment of interest, are sufficient for this purpose, and such sums as are necessary for this purpose are hereby appropriated out of the general highway fund. All sums so paid shall be returned and repaid to said general highway fund

from the tolls received on said ferry line or lines as soon as the same shall be available.

Sec. 10. Disbursement of bond proceeds. The proceeds of such bonds shall be expended under the direction and supervision of the State Highway Commission.

Sec. 11. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue. No action shall be taken or liability incurred under this act unless and until the people of Maine shall have ratified the issuance of bonds in behalf of the State at such time and in such amounts as set forth in this act for the purpose of establishing and operating a ferry line or lines between the mainland and the towns of North Haven, Vinalhaven, Islesboro and Swan's Island.

Referendum for ratification. The aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations of this State are hereby empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meeting of said inhabitants for the election of Senators and Representatives, at the next general or special state-wide election, to give in their votes upon the acceptance or rejection of the foregoing act, and the question shall be:

"Shall a bond issue be ratified in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 as set forth in 'An Act to Authorize Ferry Service for North Haven, Vinalhaven, Islesboro and Swan's Island' passed by the 98th Legislature?"

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed within a square upon their ballots their opinion of the same, those in favor of said ratification voting "Yes" and those opposed to said ratification voting "No" and the ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings, and return made to the office of the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for Governor and Members of the Legislature, and the Governor and Council shall count the same and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of the act, the Governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the act shall become effective in 30 days after the date of said proclamation.

Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing act, accompanied by a copy thereof.