

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1064**

H. P. 745

House of Representatives, March 4, 1959

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Sanborn of Gorham.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-NINE

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**AN ACT Relating to Transfer to State of Maine of Portland Bridge,  
Cumberland County.**

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

**Sec. 1. Bond issue authorized.** The county commissioners of Cumberland County, in order to provide funds to pay for the repair and reconstruction of Portland Bridge are authorized to issue interest-bearing bonds of said Cumberland County to an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000. Said bonds shall bear such rates of interest and mature at such times as said county commissioners may determine; but none of which shall run for a longer period than 20 years from date of original issue thereof. Such bonds shall be valid without first obtaining the consent of said county as provided in the Revised Statutes of 1954, chapter 89, sections 27 and 29.

The county commissioners of Cumberland County are further authorized and directed to order the transfer of the proceeds from sale of said bonds and an additional \$49,900 from 1959-1960 current funds of the county from the county treasury to the Treasurer of State for the use of the State Highway Commission for purposes stated herein, and the county treasurer shall carry out such order and receive the receipt of the Treasurer of State for same.

**Sec. 2. Portland Terminal Company relieved from further maintenance.** The Portland Terminal Company shall pay to the Treasurer of State for the use of the State Highway Commission for purposes stated herein, the sum of \$50,000 on or before the effective date of this act, after which it shall be relieved of all further responsibility for maintenance and repair of any portion of Portland Bridge as set forth in the private and special laws of 1913, chapter 234.

**Sec. 3. Portland Bridge transferred to State of Maine.** The title of Portland Bridge, now resting in the County of Cumberland, is hereby transferred and vested in the State of Maine. The State Highway Commission is hereby directed to make all necessary repairs and improvements to Portland Bridge and to maintain it hereafter, and the County of Cumberland is hereby relieved of any further responsibility in connection with same. That portion of the Portland Bridge which is known as the "Clark Street Viaduct" shall be discontinued as a public way.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

Portland Bridge, which crosses Portland Harbor between the cities of Portland and South Portland in the County of Cumberland, is the only major bridge in the State of Maine not now being maintained by the State Highway Commission.

Said bridge is on a major traffic artery, designated as a state aid highway, and has a traffic count of between 22,000 and 25,000 vehicles per day.

The County of Cumberland and Portland Terminal Company are charged with the maintenance of said bridge under the private and special laws of 1913, chapter 234.

The County of Cumberland has expended in the vicinity of \$1,000,000 in repairs and reconstruction of said bridge during the past 10 years.

It is believed that if further substantial repairs and reconstruction are made to said bridge at this time it will be adequate for vehicular and waterborne traffic for a considerable period of time.

The State Highway Commission is better able to supervise and maintain a structure of the magnitude of Portland Bridge than the County of Cumberland.