

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

SEVENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1903.

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PRIVATE AND SPECIAL LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1903.

Chapter 414.

An Act to enable the County of Sagadahoc to rebuild Merrymeeting Bay Bridge, accept Arrowsic Bridge, and to maintain both bridges free, to accept the Peoples' Ferry, and to acquire in conjunction with the County of Lincoln or town of Dresden the ferry between Richmond and Dresden, to operate the same and to reduce the tolls by at least one-half.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

Section 1. Section five of chapter forty-two of the private and special laws of eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, is hereby repealed.

Section 5, chapter 42, private and special laws of 1878, repealed.

Section 2. The county commissioners of Sagadahoc county are authorized and empowered to repair and rebuild the bridge over Merrymeeting Bay.

Repairs of Merry-meeting Bay bridge.

Section 3. The town of Arrowsic may at any legal town meeting, called therefor by a majority vote, transfer and convey by gift to the county of Sagadahoc all the stock, franchises and property of the Arrowsic Bridge Company which shall thereupon vest in the county which is hereby authorized to accept and hold the same.

Arrowsic may transfer property of bridge company.

Section 4. The city of Bath, through its city council, and the town of Woolwich at a legal town meeting called therefor, may by a majority vote transfer and convey by gift all its rights and interests in the franchises and property of the Peoples' Ferry Company with all the powers and privileges pertaining thereto subject to existing liabilities, to the county of Sagadahoc, the title to which shall thereupon vest in said county, and said county is hereby authorized to accept and hold the same for the purposes declared in the act of incorporation of said company.

Bath may transfer property of Peoples Ferry Co.

Section 5. The county commissioners of Sagadahoc in conjunction with the town of Dresden or the county commissioners of the county of Lincoln may acquire possession of the ferry, between the town of Richmond and the town of Dresden on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon.

Acquisition of ferry by Sagadahoc and Lincoln counties.

Section 6. From and after the acceptance of this act in the manner herein provided, the county of Sagadahoc is hereby authorized and empowered to maintain the Merrymeeting Bay bridge and the Arrowsic bridge free of tolls and the county commissioners of said county shall keep said bridges and approaches thereto in repair so that the same shall be safe and convenient for public travel.

Sagadahoc authorized to maintain bridges free of toll.

Section 7. From and after the acceptance of this act in the manner herein provided, the county of Sagadahoc is hereby authorized and empowered to operate the Peoples' Ferry and to maintain the same and the property thereof in good condition,

Sagadahoc may operate Peoples' ferry.

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and the county commissioners of said county are authorized and empowered to reduce the rate of tolls in force on the ferry aforesaid at the time of the passage of this act, by at least one-half.

Operation of
ferry between
Richmond
and Dresden.

Section 8. The county of Sagadahoc is authorized and empowered to operate in conjunction with the county of Lincoln or the town of Dresden on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon and to maintain the same, the ferry between Richmond and Dresden, and to reduce the rate of tolls thereon in the same proportion as the rate herein established for the Peoples' ferry.

Sagadahoc
may rebuild
bridge,
assume
liabilities of
Peoples ferry
and part cost
of ferry
between
Richmond
and Dresden.

Section 9. The county commissioners of the county of Sagadahoc are authorized and empowered to defray the cost and outlay of repairing and rebuilding Merrymeeting Bay bridge, of assuming the ownership, interest and liabilities of Bath and Woolwich in the Peoples' ferry and of the cost apportioned to the county of Sagadahoc for the acquisition of the ferry between Richmond and Dresden in the manner herein provided for, by the issue of bonds of said county not exceeding the cost of executing the above specified purposes, made payable in not more than forty years from date, with annual interest not to exceed four per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, signed by the county treasurer and countersigned by said county commissioners, said bonds to be of such denominations as the county commissioners may deem advisable.

Maintenance
of bridges
and ferries
provided for.

Section 10. From and after the acceptance of this act, as herein provided, the county commissioners of the county of Sagadahoc shall include in their annual estimates of county taxes the sums necessary for the maintenance of the bridges aforesaid and for the operation and maintenance of the ferries aforesaid together with a sum equal to two per centum of the bonds issued in virtue of this act, which sum shall be set aside yearly, until with its past and prospective accretions, it shall be sufficient to provide for the payment of said bonds at maturity, and said sums and accretions shall constitute a sinking fund for the payment of said bonds, and shall be invested in such interest bearing securities as said commissioners shall approve or in such bonds, but shall not in any other manner be loaned to said county.

This act to
be accepted
by legal
voters.

Section 11. No part of this act shall take effect unless and until it is accepted as a whole, by the legal voters of Sagadahoc county by a majority vote at meetings of the several towns and municipalities in said county, duly notified and warned, to be held on the first Monday in September next for the purpose of accepting or rejecting this act as a whole, at which meeting the vote shall be by ballot as follows: For rebuilding Merrymeet-

ing Bay bridge, accepting the Arrowsic bridge and maintaining the two bridges free. Accepting the Peoples' Ferry and acquiring the ferry between Richmond and Dresden and maintaining and operating the same and reducing the tolls thereon by at least half, "yes," "no."

Section 12. The ballots shall be received, sorted and declared as votes for town officers are, and shall be recorded by the town and city clerks, and true copies thereof sealed and attested, shall be transmitted to the county commissioners of the county of Sagadahoc within six days. The commissioners shall open and declare the votes so returned by publishing the same in the Bath Independent and Enterprise in two issues of these papers. If errors appear in the returns they shall be corrected by the commissioners by proper evidence, and if a majority of the ballots returned have "ayes" upon them, it shall be deemed to be an acceptance of this act, and the same shall then be in force, but if there should be a majority of ballots with "no" thereon, it shall be deemed a rejection of the same.

Ballots, how received, recorded, etc.

Section 13. Before said meetings are called the county commissioners shall procure careful estimates by a competent and disinterested civil engineer of the entire cost of rebuilding Merrymeeting Bay bridge in a suitable manner, and of making the same and its approaches permanent and safe for public travel, and shall cause said estimates to be kept in their office at Bath open for public inspection for at least thirty days before the first Monday of September next.

Estimates of cost to be obtained.

Section 14. At a meeting in the city of Bath to be held under the provisions hereof, the check lists used at the March nineteen hundred and three municipal election, or copies thereof certified by the city clerk, shall be used. The board of registration shall be in session only on the day of said meeting, and any person legally qualified to vote at said meeting, whose name shall not be found upon said lists, may receive a certificate of his qualification from said board, and shall thereupon be permitted by the proper ward officers to cast his ballot as if his name were on said list. The vote in said city shall be by open ballot.

Bath, how vote of shall be taken.

Section 15. If this act shall be accepted by the voters of Sagadahoc county as provided in section eleven, all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act shall thereby be repealed.

Section 16. This act shall take effect when approved.