

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES
OF THE
SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
1907.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of
June 28, 1820, February 18, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

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PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1907.

Chapter 179.

An Act to provide a way to free Toll Bridges.

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

Section 1. The county commissioners of any county, in which a toll bridge exists or may hereafter be located, are hereby authorized to lay out a county road across any toll bridge and approaches thereto, in their county, upon petition therefor, after notice and hearing in the manner required by the general laws of the state, regulating the laying out of highways. Such petition shall bear the signatures of not less than twenty taxpayers, qualified voters of said county, representing that the said bridge is necessary to the accommodation of public travel and that the payment of tolls over such bridge is burdensome to the traveling public, and praying that the same shall be taken as a county bridge. The damages for laying out said highway shall be ascertained, determined and paid in the same manner as in taking lands for highways, and persons and corporations aggrieved shall have the same rights of appeal to be enforced in the same manner as in the case of highways.

County commissioners may lay out county road across toll bridge.

—damages, how ascertained.

Section 2. In the event that the county commissioners shall decide to make said bridge a county bridge, said commissioners may, for the purpose of defraying the cost or damage for the taking and repairs of said bridge, maintain the same for a period not exceeding six years, as a toll bridge, if, in their opinion, such is necessary and for the best interests of the county. All money received for tolls after such taking shall be set aside as fast as accumulated, together with interest and accretions and shall constitute a sinking fund for the payment of any bonds issued or other indebtedness incurred by the county for damages or expenses in taking said bridge.

County commissioners may maintain bridge as a toll bridge for six years.

—tolls shall be set aside.

Section 3. For the foregoing purposes, as soon as the county commissioners shall have laid out a public way across said toll bridge and paid the damages therefor as in the case of highways and abolished the tolls thereof, they may apportion not exceeding one-third of the sum so expended for damages aside from tolls received among the several towns benefited, having regard also for their valuation and circumstances, whether such bridge shall be within or partly within the boundaries of such town or not, and thereafter such bridge and its approaches shall be public highway, and shall be kept safe and convenient for public travel by said commissioners, and maintained by the county free of toll.

Apportionment of damages.

CHAP. 180

Petition, by whom signed.

Section 4. When a petition is presented respecting a toll bridge in two counties, the same shall have the signatures of at least twenty qualified persons in each county. The commissioners receiving the petition may call a meeting of the commissioners of both counties as provided by revised statutes, chapter twenty-three, section twelve, and they shall proceed in the manner provided in the case of ways in two or more counties. Damages shall be apportioned between the two counties in proportion to their last state valuation prior to such location, and among the several towns in the manner provided by the preceding section.

—apportionment of damages.

Approved March 28, 1907.

Chapter 180.

An Act in relation to the duties of Telegraph Companies.

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

Shall maintain office in towns of certain size.

Section 1. Every corporation doing business in the state of Maine as a telegraph company shall maintain an office in every city or town containing twelve thousand inhabitants or more, where, under any circumstances, it undertakes to serve, in any way, the citizens of said town, which office shall be open for the reception and transmission of messages from eight o'clock in the forenoon to eight o'clock in the afternoon in every secular day. The delivery of such messages shall be without cost to the party to whom they are addressed and delivered within a radius of one mile from said office. Said office shall be located in the business portion of every such town and easy of access to the public.

—delivery of messages.

Approved March 28, 1907.