

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

ENACTED BY THE

Seventy-Seventh Legislature

1915

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Seventy-Seventh Legislature

1915

[supplied from page 1 of volume]

**The following legislation
(P.L. 1915, ch. 319)
was approved in a referendum,
September 11, 1916**

Question:

To approve the act

Yes: 96,677

No: 14,138

CHAP. 319

—qualifications.

Duties of Superintendent of Public Printing.

—report to Governor and Council.

Supt. of Printing shall not be owner of any office handling state work.

All inconsistent acts are repealed.

er with a working knowledge of the various grades, sizes and weights of paper stocks, type measurements, classes of composition and method of press work. He shall receive an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars.

Section 8. All state departments, institutions, commissions and boards of trustees requiring printing or bindery work for which the State is properly holden to pay out of any public moneys, shall make requisition for the same to the Superintendent of Public Printing, who shall superintend the execution of all orders upon such requisitions, and examine, correct and approve all bills rendered against the State on account of such orders. He shall keep a correct record of the expenditures hereunder of the several departments, institutions, commissions and boards of trustees through the office of the State Auditor, and the same shall always be available for public inspection. He shall also report to the Governor and Council annually in detail the description, quantity and cost of each item of expenditure relating to the State printing and binding.

Section 9. No contract authorized by this act shall be awarded to a printing office or bindery in which the Superintendent of Public Printing is owner, partner, stockholder, director, manager or agent, or otherwise financially interested.

Section 10. Sections twenty-four, twenty-five and twenty-six of chapter three of the Revised Statutes; chapter fifty-two, one hundred thirty-eight and one hundred fifty-five of the Public Laws of nineteen hundred five; chapters thirty-two and one hundred seventy-six of the Public Laws of nineteen hundred seven, and all other acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act, are hereby repealed.

Approved April 2, 1915.

Chapter 319.

An Act to Provide for State and County Aid in the Construction of Highway Bridges.

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

Cost of construction of necessary bridges in towns where appropriations for roads and bridges is in excess of five mills, now borne.

Section 1. When public convenience and necessity require the building or rebuilding of any bridge in any town or city, said bridge being located on any main thoroughfare and the cost of said construction together with all other moneys raised for the construction and repair of ways, highways and bridges in said town makes a tax rate in excess of five mills on the valuation of the town last made by the Board of State Assess-

ors, the cost of the construction of said bridge shall be borne as follows: Fifty per centum by the town, thirty per centum by the county in which said town is located and twenty per centum by the State.

Section 2. When the municipal officers of any town deem that any bridge on any main thoroughfare must be built or rebuilt and in their judgment the expense of the construction will entitle the municipality to state and county aid as provided in section one of this act, they shall petition the commissioners of the county or counties in which said bridge is, or may be built or rebuilt and the State Highway Commission to meet with them for the purpose of examining into and determining whether public convenience and necessity require the building or rebuilding of said bridge; said petition to be accompanied by such plans of survey as may be directed to be made by the State Highway Commission. The said municipal officers together with the county commissioners and the State Highway Commission, shall constitute a board to determine the necessity of building or rebuilding said bridge, also the form of construction. The decision of said board or a majority thereof is to be final and conclusive.

The State Highway Commission shall appoint a time and place for the meeting of said board and give such notice thereof as they shall see fit.

Section 3. If the board shall decide that public convenience and necessity require the building or rebuilding of the bridge, it shall be the duty of the State Highway Commission to prepare plans, specifications and estimates of the cost of said construction and at a subsequent meeting of the board submit the same for approval. Upon approval of said plans and specifications by a majority of the board, the State Highway Commission shall proceed to let contracts for all work called for by said plans and specifications as soon as the town or towns and the county or counties interested shall have paid into the State Treasury their proportional shares of the estimated cost of the construction. In case any county or town unreasonably neglects or refuses to pay into the State Treasury its proportional part of the estimated cost of construction which may be due and payable under the provisions of this act, then the State Treasurer may out of any funds in the State Treasury due said county or town pay such proportional part and deduct the amount so paid from any such sum in the State Treasury due said county or town.

CHAP. 319

Municipal officers shall petition county commissioners and Highway Commission for aid.

—petition to be accompanied by plans.

—board, how constituted.

—notice of meeting.

Duties of the board.

—if county or town refuses to pay proportional part.

CHAP. 319

All counties and all towns are hereby authorized and re-
quired to raise by taxation or otherwise such reasonable sums
as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

—counties
and towns
authorized
to raise
money for
this pur-
pose.
—construc-
tion work
shall be
under su-
pervision of
the State
Highway
Commission.
—state-
ment.
—unex-
pended
balance.
—over-
draw, how
provided
for.

Section 4. The State Highway Commission shall have super-
vision of all construction work and no payment shall be made
on account of any of said work until the same has been ap-
proved by said State Highway Commission. On completion of
any bridge the State Highway Commission shall render an item-
ized statement of the complete cost of the construction to the
town or towns and the county or counties interested and to the
State Treasurer. If there remains unexpended balances of the
moneys advanced by the town or towns and the county or coun-
ties they shall be immediately returned. If the cost of construc-
tion has exceeded the estimated cost, the town or towns and
the county or counties interested shall forthwith, on receipt of
said itemized statement, forward to the Treasurer of State their
proportional shares of such additional cost.

—foregoing
provisions,
when to
apply.

Section 5. All the foregoing provisions shall apply to either
or all towns in the same county or to either or all towns in dif-
ferent counties, and to the county or counties when a bridge is
to be built or rebuilt, which crosses the boundary line between
said towns or between said towns and said counties and the
proportion of the cost of construction which either town would
legally bear under agreements or legislative enactments in ef-
fect January first, nineteen hundred seventeen, will in addition
to the other highway taxes of the said town make a tax rate in
excess of five mills. In such cases the municipal officers of
each of said towns and the commissioners of each of said coun-
ties shall sit upon the board provided for in section two and all
plans and specifications shall be approved by a majority of said
board. Notice of complete cost of construction shall be for-
warded to each town and each county interested. The propor-
tional parts of the cost to be borne by the towns or by the coun-
ties under the provisions of section one of this act shall be ap-
portioned between said towns and between said counties in pro-
portion to their valuations last made by the board of State As-
sessors, in absence of any legal agreement or legislative enact-
ment in effect January one, nineteen hundred seventeen, regu-
lating such division of cost.

—notice of
construc-
tion.

Cost, how
appor-
tioned.

Mainte-
nance of
bridges
coming un-
der this act,
how pro-
vided for.

Section 6. All cost of maintenance of bridges built or re-
built under the provisions of this act shall be borne by the town
or towns in which they are located, apportioned upon the basis
of valuation as last made by the Board of State Assessors
where more than one town is involved; provided, however, that

in case of neglect or failure by any town or towns to properly maintain any bridges built or rebuilt under the provisions of this act, the State Highway Commission may order such maintenance work as in their judgment is deemed necessary. If any town or towns fail to obey, within a reasonable time, such order of the State Highway Commission, then the Commission may proceed to do such maintenance work and the amounts payable by said towns, under the provisions of this act, shall be certified by the Commission to the State Auditor, who, if he finds the amount correct shall certify to the Treasurer of State, and unless sooner paid it shall be collected and paid in the same manner as any state tax against such town or towns, with interest at six per centum per annum from the date of the Auditor's certification to the Treasurer of State.

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—if town fails to obey.

Section 7. Nothing contained in this act shall invalidate any existing contract, judgment or decision of any tribunal whereby any bridge is wholly or partly kept in repair or any money is contributed or to be contributed for the purpose of construction or maintenance of any bridge by any individual, firm or corporation.

—shall not invalidate contracts, judgment, etc.

Section 8. All legal proceedings necessary to carry out any of the foregoing provisions of this act shall be had under the general statute.

—legal proceedings may be had.

Section 9. The State shall not be liable to any person or corporation for damages arising from the construction or rebuilding, or improvement of any bridge built or rebuilt under the terms of this act. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as affecting existing liability for the repair of any bridge or damages sustained by reason of neglect or want of repair of any bridge.

State not liable for damages.

Section 10. The State Highway Commission is hereby authorized and empowered to employ such additional aid as they may deem necessary to effectively carry out the work prescribed by this act and the payment of the same shall be from any moneys appropriated by the Legislature for the purposes of this act.

State Highway Commission may employ additional aid.

Section 11. To meet the financial obligations of the State to be incurred under the provisions of this act there shall be appropriated annually to meet expenses of new construction the sum of one hundred thousand dollars.

—appropriation.

Section 12. This act shall not be construed as applying to or including any interstate or international bridge or bridges.

—does not apply.

Section 13. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

—inconsistent acts repealed.

CHAP. 320

This act shall be passed upon by the voters at the next State election.

Section 14. This act shall be referred at the next state election to the voters of the State and if approved by them shall take effect on the first Wednesday of December, nineteen hundred sixteen. At the said next state election the following question shall be printed upon the official ballot after the list of candidates, in accordance with section ten of chapter six of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter one hundred thirty-five of the Public Laws for nineteen hundred five: "Shall an act to provide for state and county aid in construction of highway bridges become a law?" The words, "yes" and "no" shall be printed upon such ballot above the aforesaid question so as to leave a blank space above such question so as to give such voter a clear opportunity to designate by a cross mark (X) therein opposite to the word "yes" or "no" his answer to the question submitted. All warrants for such election shall show that said act is so submitted to the people for ratification and in all the election returns required by law the results shall be appropriately recorded. When said results are made and so returned to the office of the Secretary of State, in like manner as votes for Governor and members of the Legislature, the Governor and Council shall count the same and proclamation of the result shall be made by the Governor, and if it shall appear that a majority of the votes cast thereon are in favor of the ratification of the proposed law, this act shall thereupon take effect and become law on the first Wednesday of December, nineteen hundred sixteen.

Governor shall issue proclamation of the result.

—become law.

Approved April 2, 1915.

Chapter 320.

An Act for the Better Protection of Children, and to Amend Chapter Sixty-one of the Revised Statutes of Nineteen Hundred Three, and Chapter One Hundred Twenty-three of the Public Laws of Nineteen Hundred Five, as Amended by Chapter Forty-three of the Public Laws of Nineteen Hundred Seven, and Chapter One Hundred Nine of the Public Laws of Nineteen Hundred Nine.

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

Ch. 123, Sec. 1, P. L., 1905, as amended, further amended.

Section I. Section one of chapter one hundred twenty-three of the Public Laws of nineteen hundred five as amended by chapter forty-three of the Public Laws of nineteen hundred seven is hereby amended so that the same as amended shall read as follows:

Governor and Council may appoint agents for the protection of children.

'Section I. Upon application by the mayor and aldermen of any city, the selectmen of any town or the county commissioners of any county to the Governor and Council recommending any person as an "agent for the protection of children," the Governor