

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Acts and Resolves

As Passed by the

Seventy-Eighth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1917

Including Acts and Resolves of the Special Session of the
Seventy-Seventh Legislature held in 1916.

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Seventy-Eighth Legislature

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CHAP. 305

on 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.

The county commissioners of any county where a bridge is to be built or rebuilt in any unorganized township are authorized and required to assess upon said township such sums as may be required to build or rebuild said bridge according to the last state valuation, the whole expense thereof shall be added to their next assessment on said township for repairs authorized by section sixty of chapter ten of the revised statutes which assessment shall create a lien upon said township for the whole amount thereof as effectually as is now provided in relation to repairs on such county road. That portion of said assessment which is for building or repairing said bridge aforesaid, shall be set down in the assessment in distinct items in a separate column and shall be enforced as is provided in section sixty-one of chapter ten of the revised statutes.

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

Approved April 7, 1917.

Chapter 305.

An Act to Permit Savings Banks to Invest in Certain Railroad Bonds.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 52, § 27, par. b, sub-section III, relating to the investment by savings banks in railroad bonds, amended. Paragraph b, sub-section third, section twenty-seven, of chapter fifty-two, of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto the following words: 'and in the underlying mortgage bonds other than first mortgage bonds and the consolidated mortgage bonds and refunding mortgage bonds of any completed railroads organized under the laws of any state of the United States and located within the United States, and in the first mortgage bonds of any completed railroads of any other state of the United States; provided, however, that such underlying, consolidated and refunding mortgage bonds and such first mortgage bonds of railroads other than those of said named states shall be secured by liens upon a completed railroad of standard gauge and of not less than one hundred miles in length exclusive of sidings and shall be of any of the several classes established by paragraph "c",' so that said paragraph shall read as follows:

'b: May invest in underlying consolidated and refunding mortgage bonds of certain completed railroads, proviso. In the first mortgage bonds of any completed railroads of the states of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, and in the underlying mortgage bonds other than first mortgage bonds and the consolidated mortgage bonds and refunding mortgage bonds of any completed railroads organized under the laws of any state of the United States and located within the United States, and in the first mortgage bonds of any completed railroads of any other state of the United States; provided, however, that such underlying, consolidated and refunding mortgage bonds and such first mortgage bonds of railroads other than those of said named states shall be secured by liens upon a completed railroad of standard gauge and of not less than one hundred miles in length exclusive of sidings and shall be of any of the several classes established by paragraph "c".'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 52, § 27, par. c, sub-section III, amended. Paragraph "c" of sub-section third is hereby stricken out and in place thereof insert the following:

'c: Specific provisions governing investment in first mortgage and underlying mortgage bonds. First mortgage bonds, and underlying mortgage bonds other than first mortgage bonds, provided, that the net earnings for each of the three fiscal years next preceding the time of making the investment shall have been not less than one and three-fourths times, and the gross operating revenues shall have been not less than five times all fixed charges for interest and rentals; and provided, further, that the mortgage or mortgages securing any issue or issues of such underlying bonds is or are prior to and to be refunded by a mortgage which covers a mileage at least twenty-five per centum greater than is covered by any prior mortgage which it is destined to refund and that such refunding mortgage is a first mortgage upon that part of the mileage covered by it which is in excess of, and distinct from, the mileage covered by all prior mortgages.

Specific provisions governing investment in consolidated and refunding mortgage bonds. Consolidated mortgage bonds and refunding mortgage bonds; provided, that the net earnings for each of the three fiscal years next preceding the time of making the investment shall have been not less than one and three-fourths times, and the gross operating revenues shall have been not less than five times, all fixed charges for interest and rentals; and provided, further, that the mortgage by which an issue of any such bonds is secured covers a mileage at least twenty-five per centum greater than is covered by any prior mortgage which is destined to refund and is a first mortgage upon that part of the mileage covered by it which is in excess of and distinct from the mileage covered by all prior mortgages.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 52, § 27, par. e, relating to manner of construing certain provisions, amended. Amend paragraph "e" of said chapter and section by striking out the word "street" in the first line of said paragraph, and inserting in place thereof the word 'electric,' so that said paragraph as amended shall read as follows:

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'e: Electric railroad companies not to be considered as railroad companies. Electric railroad companies are not railroad companies within the meaning of the foregoing clauses of this section.'

Approved April 7, 1917.

Chapter 306.

An Act to Amend Section Sixteen of Chapter Seven of the Revised Statutes, Relating to Manner of Voting.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 7, § 16, relating to preparation of ballot and manner of voting, amended. Section sixteen of chapter seven of the revised statutes is hereby amended, so that said section as amended shall read as follows :

'**Sec. 16. Cross may be placed in square over party group, or may be omitted and names checked under any party group; stickers not to be counted; exceptions.** On receipt of his ballot the voter shall forthwith, and without leaving the enclosed space, retire alone to one of the voting shelves or compartments so provided and shall prepare his ballot by marking in the appropriate place, a cross (X) as follows: He may place such mark within the square above the name of the party group or ticket, in which case he shall be deemed to have voted for all the persons named in the group under such party or designation. And if the voter shall desire to vote for any person or persons, whose name or names are not printed as candidates in such party group or ticket, he may erase any name or names which are printed therein and place a cross (X) in the square at the right of the name of the candidate of his choice in any other party group or ticket. Or, as an optional method of voting, the voter may omit the cross (X) in the party square and place a cross (X) in the blank square at the right of the name of each candidate he wishes to vote for. If the voter wishes to vote for a candidate whose name is not on the ballot he may write the name under the name of the candidate erased. Or if the voter does not desire to vote for a person or persons whose name or names are printed upon the party group or ticket, he may erase such name or names with the effect that the ballot shall not be counted for the candidate or candidates whose names are so erased. Stickers shall not be counted unless used to fill a vacancy or correct an error in the printed ballot. In case of a question submitted to the vote of the people he shall place such mark in the appropriate margin above the answer which he desires to give. Before leaving the voting shelf or compartment, the voter shall fold his ballot without displaying the marks thereon, in the same way it was folded when received by him, and he shall keep the same so folded until he has voted. He shall vote in the manner provided by law before leaving the enclosed space and shall deposit his ballot in the box with the official endorsement uppermost. He shall mark and deposit his ballot without undue delay, and shall quit said enclosed space as soon as he has voted. No such voter shall be allowed to occupy a voting shelf or compartment occupied by another, or to remain