

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

Ninety-sixth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

Published by the Director of Legislative Research in accordance with subsection VI of section 26 of chapter 9 of the Revised Statutes of 1944.

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KENNEBEC JOURNAL  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
1953

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STATE PAPERS RELATING

to

Gifts of Ex-Governor Baxter

to

The State of Maine

(from May 1, 1949 to May 1, 1953)

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**COMMUNICATION**  
STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Augusta

March 4, 1953

To the Honorable Senate and House of  
Representatives of the 96th Legislature:

Herewith I hand you for your consideration a communication addressed to the Governor, the Senate and House of Representatives by Honorable Percival Proctor Baxter relative to a gift for the development of Mackworth Island, Bridge and Rock, as a School for the Deaf, and or, a Children's Honor Home and School.

We all appreciate the generous offer from our former Governor, and recognize his fine public spirit. We shall give our best thought to his suggestions and hope that the State will be able to benefit from this, his most recent benefaction.

BURTON M. CROSS,  
Governor

(H. P. 1149)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Read and placed on  
file with accompanying papers  
March 4, 1953

Sent up for concurrence  
HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

IN SENATE CHAMBER

Read and Placed on File  
March 5, 1953  
In concurrence

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Sec.

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**COMMUNICATION**

Portland, Maine  
March 4, 1953

To the Honorable Burton M. Cross, Governor  
and the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives  
of the Ninety-sixth Legislature of the State of Maine—

In 1943 (Chapter 1 of the Private and Special Laws of Maine) the State accepted from me the GIFT IN TRUST of Mackworth Island, the Bridge to the same and Mackworth Rock all in the Town of Falmouth forever

to be held in Trust for the People of Maine. Under the terms of this Trust the State has full authority to use the Island, Bridge and Rock in any way it may choose provided the use is for "STATE PUBLIC PURPOSES."

In the Deed of Trust this property was leased to me for my use as long as I desired provided I assumed all expenses incident to its care and operation. At that time I also donated to the State of Maine the sum of ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars as a TRUST FUND for Island, Bridge and Rock purposes.

From 1943 to 1949 during the Summer months I lived on the Island and maintained it and the Bridge without expense to the State. In 1949, however, I moved from the Island and thereafter the State assumed full ownership and responsibility.

In an OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION addressed to the Legislature (pages 703 to 708 of the said Laws of 1943) this property is described and I suggested that it be used as "a home for sick and underprivileged children" and further stated that "ITS USE FOR CHILDREN WOULD BE ESPECIALLY PLEASING TO ME." This is merely a suggestion and imposes no obligation upon the State other than the "State Public Purposes" provision as specified in the Deed of Trust. Ten years have passed and now I am desirous of having my Gift put to a useful purpose during my lifetime.

I now offer the State the sum of six hundred twenty-five thousand (\$625,000.00) dollars in two items: five hundred thousand (\$500,000.00) dollars to be expended toward the construction of a new school for the Deaf or toward the construction of a new Home and School for the wards of the State as hereafter described, and one hundred twenty-five thousand (\$125,000.00) dollars for the construction of a new bridge to the same. The Bridge Engineer of the Highway Department has given me the latter figure as his estimate of the cost of a suitable Bridge.

My suggestion is that you first construct a new Maine School for the Deaf on the Island, and that later you erect thereon a Home and School for such of the State's younger wards as it may be desirable to take from some of the private homes throughout the State where they now are boarding at an expense to the State of about five hundred (\$500.00) dollars per year per child. My thought as to a second institution is that in the boarding homes referred to no doubt there are certain younger children of exceptional promise whose removal to a special institution might give them a better chance to develop into useful citizens. It well may be

that in time both institutions referred to can be established on the Island; the new School for the Deaf and what may be called an Honor Home and School for one hundred or two hundred of the State's selected children. There is ample room for these two institutions. It is for you to decide on which one of them you will expend this five hundred thousand (\$500,000.00) dollars Gift.

It is well for the offer of this Gift to contain some limitation of time for its acceptance and my offer will hold during the present Legislative Session. If accepted by Legislative Act I pledge to place this six hundred twenty-five thousand (\$625,000.00) dollars in the hands of the Governor as soon as he gives his approval to the plans and orders construction begun.

This offer will be considered as withdrawn if the construction of one or the other of the suggested institutions and of the Bridge be not begun by January 1, 1955. Provision will be made so that my Gift obligation will be honored in case of my decease.

I request that this communication be published in full in the Laws of Maine 1953 as a permanent record for the guidance of future generations.

Respectfully,

PERCIVAL PROCTOR BAXTER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Read and Placed on File

March 4, 1953

Sent up for concurrence

HARVEY R. PEASE

Clerk

IN SENATE CHAMBER

Read and Placed on File

March 5, 1953

In Concurrence

CHESTER T. WINSLOW

Secretary

#### ORDER

In Senate, March 4, 1953

ORDERED, the House concurring, that in order that the Record of the offer of a Gift by Honorable Percival Proctor Baxter to the State of Maine of six hundred twenty-five thousand (\$625,000.00) dollars, the same to be used toward the construction of a State institution on Mackworth Island and for a Bridge thereto in the Town of Falmouth be complete and in enduring form, the

COMMUNICATION dated March 4, 1953 addressed by said Baxter to Honorable Burton M. Cross, Governor, and to the Honorable Senate

and House of Representatives of the Ninety-sixth Legislature, together with the MESSAGE of Governor Cross transmitting the said Communication to this Legislature be printed in the Laws of Maine for 1953.

(S. P. 474)

IN SENATE CHAMBER

Read and Passed

March 5, 1953

Sent down for concurrence

CHESTER T. WINSLOW

Secretary

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Read and Passed

March 10, 1953

In concurrence

HARVEY R. PEASE

Clerk

Haskell

Penobscot