

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# DOCUMENTS

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# THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1865.

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1865.

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# FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 20.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE.

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“AN ACT to make valid the acts and doings of cities, towns and plantations, in voting and making provision for the payment of bounties to volunteers, drafted men, and substitutes of drafted and enrolled men, and for other purposes.”

[As amended by the House.]

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

SECTION 1. The past acts and doings of cities, towns  
2 and plantations in offering, paying, agreeing to pay,  
3 and in raising and providing the means to pay bounties  
4 to, and all votes and town orders given by the municipi-  
5 pal officers of any city, town, or plantation in pursu-  
6 ance of a previous vote, for the benefit of volunteers,

7 drafted men, or substitutes of drafted or enrolled men,  
8 who have been or shall hereafter be actually mustered  
9 into the military or naval service of the United States,  
10 are hereby made valid.

SECT. 2. All contracts heretofore made by the mu-  
2 nicipal officers of any city, town or plantation, that  
3 has voted to raise bounties, with any volunteer, drafted  
4 man or substitute, for the payment of the bounty thus  
5 voted, and all contracts heretofore made by said officers  
6 or their duly authorized agents, with third persons,  
7 corporations or associations, for the purpose of raising  
8 means to pay such bounties so voted, are hereby made  
9 valid.

SECT. 3. All contracts heretofore made by such mu-  
2 nicipal officers, or by third persons, in behalf of any  
3 city, town or plantation, but without previous author-  
4 ity therefor, to pay bounties to such volunteers, drafted  
5 men or substitutes, or to raise money to pay such  
6 bounties where such volunteers, drafted men or substi-  
7 tutes have been or hereafter shall be actually mustered  
8 into the military or naval service of the United States,  
9 may be ratified and confirmed by said city, town or  
10 plantation.

SECT. 4. All votes of cities, towns or plantations to  
2 pay expenses of recruiting for their several quotas, and

3 all contracts heretofore made in pursuance of such  
4 votes, are hereby made valid.

SECT. 5. All taxes that have been assessed to raise  
2 funds to pay bounties, or to fulfil contracts for the ob-  
3 jects named in this act, are hereby made valid.

SECT. 6. Authority is hereby conferred upon cities,  
2 towns and plantations to offer, pay and agree to pay  
3 bounties to volunteers, drafted men or substitutes re-  
4 quired to fill their quotas, under any call for soldiers  
5 by the president or government of the United States  
6 heretofore made where such volunteers, drafted men  
7 or substitutes have been or shall hereafter be actually  
8 mustered into the military or naval service of the  
9 United States, and to assume and pay to persons or  
10 associations, where they have advanced the bounty, or  
11 have by private subscription given a bounty, to such  
12 volunteer, drafted man or substitute; *provided*, that  
13 no bounty shall be paid from the treasury of the state  
14 to any person enlisted or drafted and mustered into  
15 the service of the United States prior to the second  
16 day of February, eighteen hundred and sixty-four,  
17 except upon his subsequent re-enlistment and muster  
18 into such service; *and provided further*, that nothing  
19 in this act shall authorize the municipal officers, after  
20 the twenty-eighth day of January, eighteen hundred

21 and sixty-five, or the state, to pay or contract to pay  
22 bounties to any persons who have already been en-  
23 listed and mustered into the military or naval service  
24 of the United States, but not assigned to any district,  
25 on account of such persons being hereafter assigned  
26 to the quota of any city, town or plantation, without  
27 re-enlistment, nor to pay any sum to any person for  
28 procuring the assignment of such persons to the quota  
29 of any city, town or plantation ; *and provided further*,  
30 that nothing in this act shall authorize the municipal  
31 officers of any city, town or plantation to pay any  
32 drafted man more than said drafted man has actually  
33 paid to his substitute.

SECT. 7. Any city, town or plantation having voted,  
2 or that shall so vote, may fund the debt incurred in  
3 raising means to pay the bounties and expenses author-  
4 ized by this act or any prior act of the legislature, and  
5 may issue bonds therefor, with coupons attached, for  
6 interest at a rate not exceeding six per cent. per an-  
7 num, payable semi-annually, said bonds redeemable  
8 any time within twenty years from the date of their  
9 issue ; such bonds to be signed by the mayor and  
10 treasurer of cities ; the treasurer and selectmen or  
11 major part thereof of towns ; the treasurer and assess-  
12 ors or major part thereof of plantations. The treas-  
13 urer's signature only to the coupons shall be required.

SECT. 8. The treasurers of the several cities and  
2 towns of this state shall, on or before the first day of  
3 November next, return to the governor and council a  
4 statement of the financial condition of their respective  
5 cities and towns, as it exists on the first day of October  
6 next, which return shall exhibit the aggregate indebted-  
7 edness, the years when and the purposes for which it  
8 was created, the rates of interest paid, and the time  
9 when it falls due ; together with an estimate of the  
10 real and personal property owned by said city or town;  
11 and the governor and council shall examine such re-  
12 turns, and report the same or an abstract thereof to  
13 the next session of the legislature.

SECT. 9. Nothing in this act shall be construed as  
2 making valid, so much of any contract herein referred  
3 to, as shall be usurious by existing laws.

SECT. 10. No bounty shall be paid from the state  
2 treasury to any volunteer, drafted man or substitute  
3 enlisted or drafted since the second day of February,  
4 eighteen hundred and sixty-four, excepting upon calls  
5 for troops already made by the president or government  
6 of the United States.

SECT. 11. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent  
2 with this act are hereby repealed.

SECT. 12. This act shall take effect when approved  
2 by the governor.

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[Amendment proposed by Mr. Wilson of Thomaston.]

Amend by inserting between section ten and eleven the  
following as a new section :

SECT. 11. It shall be the duty of cities, towns and  
2 plantations to assess and collect in the usual mode of  
3 taxation not less than twenty-five per cent. annually,  
4 commencing with the current year, of the amount  
5 necessary to pay the bounties, contracts and expenses  
6 authorized by this act, arising since the last call of the  
7 President, until the whole shall be paid ; and it is  
8 hereby made the duty of the assessors of cities, towns  
9 and plantations to assess, and of collectors of taxes to  
10 collect and pay over to the treasurer the taxes provided  
11 for in this section.



# STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 2, 1865. }

On motion of Mr. LARRABEE of Portland, laid on the table and  
350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

HORACE STILSON, *Clerk.*