

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1451**

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H. P. 1188

House of Representatives, April 12, 1955

Reported by Mr. Earles from the Committee on Judiciary and printed under Joint Rules No. 10.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT Creating a Commission to Survey Proposal for Portland-South  
Portland Bridge.**

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

**Sec. 1. Survey Commission created.** A commission is hereby created which shall consist of the county commissioners of Cumberland county, the members of the State Highway Commission, 2 representatives from the city of Portland selected by the city council, 2 representatives from the city of South Portland selected by the city council, and one representative from the Portland Terminal Company selected by its board of directors. The members shall serve until the functions of the Commission shall be terminated by the Legislature. Any vacancies caused by death, resignation or removal shall be filled by the organization from which the vacancy occurred. The Commission shall select one of its members as chairman and shall elect a secretary who need not be a member of the Commission. The members shall serve without pay but may be compensated for out-of-pocket expenditures incurred in the performance of their official duties.

**Sec. 2. Duties of the Commission.** The Commission is hereby empowered and directed to make surveys and studies concerning the present condition of a bridge across Fore River between the cities of Portland and South Portland known as "Portland Bridge" to determine whether or not the present structure is in sufficiently good condition to warrant repairs and retention for a considerable period of time as a traffic artery between these two cities. The Commission is also directed to obtain from the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Corps of Engineers, and the Secretary of the Army, the minimum navigational clearances which the present river traffic requires. Some estimate should also be made as to what

changes in river traffic can be anticipated in future years which might require larger navigational clearances than are immediately necessary. The Commission shall further study all possible methods of financing any reconstruction, repairs or other necessary work on the present bridge and shall also make or have made such traffic surveys as may be necessary to properly develop the traffic distribution on each end of the bridge itself.

**Sec. 3. Authorized to provide technical assistance.** The Highway Commission is hereby authorized to provide such architects, engineers, technical assistants and clerical help as may be necessary for the purpose of the survey, studies and report.

**Sec. 4. Report by the Commission.** The Commission is hereby directed to recommend such immediate repairs, reconstruction and additions to the present bridge or its navigational approaches as, in its opinion, seem necessary for the safety of both highway and river traffic. These recommendations shall be made as soon as possible to those having present authority over the bridge and its operation and to any other municipalities or organizations which may have an interest in this matter. The Commission shall make a full and complete report of its studies, recommendations, etc., in such form as it deems appropriate, to the next session of the Legislature, whether general or special, together with any further recommendations for action by the Legislature and any other organization in that the bridge structure and its approaches be placed in the best possible condition consistent with the economics of the general situation.