

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 105**

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H. P. 97

House of Representatives, January 20, 1955.

Referred to the Committee on Highways, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Ferguson of Hanover.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT Correcting Appropriations for State Aid and Bridge Act Apportionments to Conform with New State Valuations.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts passed without an emergency clause do not take effect until late in the summer, and,

Whereas, towns must make their road appropriations early in the spring, and road building must start early in the season, and

Whereas, a delay in the road program would be caused if this act did not take effect immediately, and,

Whereas, this delay would be detrimental to the public peace, health and safety, and,

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now therefore,

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 23, § 44, amended.** Section 44 of chapter 23 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 44. Appropriations by towns desiring state aid.** If any town desires state aid, as provided by this chapter, for the building or permanent improvement of one or more of its state, or state aid highways, such towns may raise and appropriate in addition to the amounts regularly raised and appropriated for

the care of ways, highways and bridges the following amounts on account of which state aid shall be paid:

Towns having a valuation of ~~\$200,000~~ \$400,000 or less may appropriate any amount not exceeding \$300; towns having a valuation of over ~~\$200,000~~ \$400,000 and not over ~~\$800,000~~ \$1,600,000 may appropriate any amount not exceeding \$533; towns having a valuation of over ~~\$200,000~~ \$1,600,000 and not over ~~\$1,000,000~~ \$2,000,000 may appropriate an amount not exceeding \$600; and towns having a valuation of over ~~\$1,000,000~~ \$2,000,000 and not over ~~\$3,000,000~~ \$6,000,000 may appropriate in addition to the sum of \$600 an additional sum of \$66 for each ~~\$200,000~~ \$400,000 or fraction thereof valuation in excess of ~~\$1,000,000~~ \$2,000,000; towns having a valuation of over ~~\$3,000,000~~ \$6,000,000 and not over ~~\$4,000,000~~ \$8,000,000 may appropriate not exceeding \$1,333; and towns having a valuation of over ~~\$4,000,000~~ \$8,000,000 may appropriate in addition to the sum of \$1,333 an additional sum not exceeding \$133 for each additional ~~\$1,000,000~~ \$2,000,000 or fraction thereof of additional valuation.'

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 23, § 46, amended.** Section 46 of chapter 23 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 46. Apportionment to each town.** The Commission, from the fund provided for the improvement of state aid roads, shall to each town which has conformed to the provisions of sections 44 and 45, for each dollar so appropriated, apportion the following amounts: to each town having a valuation of ~~\$200,000~~ \$400,000 or less, \$3.50 for each dollar appropriated by said town; to each town having a valuation of over ~~\$200,000~~ \$400,000 and not over ~~\$800,000~~ \$1,600,000, \$2 for each dollar appropriated by said town; to each town having a valuation of over ~~\$800,000~~ \$1,600,000 and not over ~~\$1,000,000~~ \$2,000,000, \$1.75 for each dollar appropriated by said town; to each town having a valuation of over ~~\$1,000,000~~ \$2,000,000 and not over ~~\$1,200,000~~ \$2,400,000, \$1.55 for each dollar appropriated by said town; to each town having a valuation of over ~~\$1,200,000~~ \$2,400,000 and not over ~~\$1,400,000~~ \$2,800,000, \$1.35 for each dollar appropriated by said town; to each town having a valuation of over ~~\$1,400,000~~ \$2,800,000 and not over ~~\$1,600,000~~ \$3,200,000, \$1.20 for each dollar appropriated by said town; to each town having a valuation of over ~~\$1,600,000~~ \$3,200,000 and not over ~~\$1,800,000~~ \$3,600,000, \$1.10 for each dollar so appropriated by said town; and to each town having a valuation of over ~~\$1,800,000~~ \$3,600,000, \$1 for each dollar so appropriated by said town. The money appropriated by towns applying for state aid as hereinbefore provided, with the amount apportioned by the Commission as hereinbefore provided, shall constitute a joint fund for the construction and improvement of the state or state aid highways in such towns.'

**Sec. 3. R. S., c. 23, § 109, amended.** The 1st paragraph of section 109 of chapter 23 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'The cost of construction of a bridge built or rebuilt under the provisions of sections 108 to 116, inclusive, section 118 and sections 120 to 122, inclusive, shall be divided as follows: when the cost of said construction makes a tax rate of  $5\ 2\frac{1}{2}$  mills or less on the valuation of the town last made by the State Tax Assessor, 45% by the town, 30% by the county in which said town is located and 25% by the State; when the tax rate determined as above is ~~to~~ 5 mills, the

cost shall be borne as follows: 40% by the town, 30% by the county and 30% by the State; when the tax rate determined as above is ~~+~~5 7½ mills, the cost shall be borne as follows: 35% by the town, 30% by the county and 35% by the State; when the tax rate determined as above is ~~20~~ 10 mills, the cost shall be borne as follows: 30% by the town, 30% by the county and 40% by the State; when the tax rate determined as above is ~~30~~ 15 mills, the cost shall be borne as follows: 25% by the town, 30% by the county and 45% by the State; when the tax rate determined as above is ~~40~~ 20 mills, the cost shall be borne as follows: 20% by the town, 30% by the county and 50% by the State; when the tax rate determined as above is ~~60~~ 30 mills the cost shall be borne as follows: 15% by the town, 30% by the county and 55% by the State; when the tax rate determined as above is ~~80~~ 40 mills, the cost shall be borne as follows: 12% by the town, 30% by the county and 58% by the State; when the tax rate determined as above is ~~100~~ 50 mills, the cost shall be borne as follows: 10% by the town, 30% by the county and 60% by the State. For intermediate tax rates the percentage of cost to be borne by the town and State shall be proportional, computed to the nearest tenth of 1%. When the tax rate determined as above is over ~~100~~ 50 mills, the town shall pay a fixed sum, equivalent to ~~+~~½ of 1% of its state valuation, the county 30% of the cost of construction and the State the balance. The cost of reconstruction of a bridge owned and maintained wholly by the county, but located in a town or organized plantation, shall be borne as follows: 50% by the county and 50% by the state.'

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.