

SENATE No. 64

To accompany the petition of Ralph C. Mahar and George F. Martin, Jr., for legislation relative to the care, control and maintenance of certain public highway bridges. Highways and Motor Vehicles.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CARE, CONTROL AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC HIGHWAY BRIDGES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. On January first, nineteen hundred and
2 forty-eight, the care, control and maintenance of every
3 public highway bridge with a clear span of not less
4 than twenty feet, which carries a through route, in-
5 cluding in addition the Stillwater bridge in the town
6 of Deerfield and the Bardwell's Ferry bridge between
7 the towns of Shelburne and Conway, and excluding
8 any bridge under the control of the metropolitan dis-
9 trict commission and any bridge under the control of
10 the department of public works on the effective date
11 of this act, are hereby transferred to the control of
12 the department of public works and thereafter such
13 bridge shall be a state highway and the cost of the
14 care, control and maintenance thereof shall be paid

15 out of the Highway Fund; provided, that prior to
16 January first, nineteen hundred and forty-eight, the
17 public authority in charge of such bridge shall have
18 filed with said department approval of the transfer
19 aforesaid. The existing plans of such bridge, if any,
20 which are the property of the public authority shall
21 become the property of the department of public
22 works and the public authority shall transfer the plans
23 to the department of public works forthwith. Until
24 June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and forty-eight, all
25 employees employed in the operation of the draw of
26 any bridge so made a state highway shall continue to
27 be so employed and the cost of the operation of such
28 draw shall be paid by the public authority having
29 charge of the bridge at the time it is made a state
30 highway and said authority shall be reimbursed by
31 the commonwealth for the actual cost of the operation
32 thereof from the Highway Fund; provided, that said
33 reimbursement shall not exceed the expenditures for
34 said purposes during the comparable period in the
35 year nineteen hundred and forty-six. Said depart-
36 ment shall file with the clerk of the house of repre-
37 sentatives on or before the second Wednesday in
38 January, nineteen hundred and forty-eight, a complete
39 list of the bridges made state highway, as provided in
40 this section. For the purposes hereof, a through route
41 is defined to be any route, road, connecting road or
42 street shown on a map entitled "Route Map of Massa-
43 chusetts, 1941", published by the Massachusetts de-
44 partment of public works, including the insert maps
45 on the reverse side thereof, in whatever form such
46 route, road, connecting road or street is indicated. A
47 copy of this map is on file in the office of the state sec-
48 retary.

1 SECTION 2. Nothing in this act shall affect existing
2 agreements, decrees, orders or statutes defining the
3 duties, responsibilities or obligations of railroad com-
4 panies or other public utilities relative to any such
5 bridge so made a state highway.

The first part of the report is devoted to a general
 description of the country and its resources. It
 is followed by a detailed account of the
 various branches of industry and commerce.
 The report concludes with a summary of the
 principal facts and a list of the principal
 towns and villages.

The second part of the report is devoted to a
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 and commerce. It is followed by a detailed
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