

HOUSE . . . . . No. 592.

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[Bill accompanying the petition of Edward W. Hunt and others for legislation to place the care, management, construction and repair of all highway bridges under one central authority.]

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and One.

AN ACT

To place the Care and Management of Certain  
Bridges in the Hands of the Massachusetts High-  
way Commission.

*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. All bridges owned in whole or in  
2 part by the Commonwealth, or by any county,  
3 city or town therein, which form part of a high-  
4 way and are not less than one hundred feet in  
5 length, including bridges which are used in part  
6 for a highway and in part for the tracks of a  
7 railway or railroad company, shall be under the  
8 care and management of the Massachusetts high-

9 way commission, on and after the first day of  
10 January in the year nineteen hundred and two.

1 SECTION 2. The cost of maintaining and re-  
2 pairing the said bridges shall be distributed as is  
3 now the case, except as is hereinafter pro-  
4 vided for, and the money therefor shall be paid  
5 into the hands of the Massachusetts highway  
6 commission, upon their requisition, to be ex-  
7 pended by them; but in no case shall they exceed  
8 in their expenditure upon any bridge the sum  
9 lawfully appropriated for that purpose.

1 SECTION 3. The three members of the Massa-  
2 chusetts highway commission, together with three  
3 of the county commissioners and the probate  
4 judge of each county, shall be a board of re-  
5 vision and appeal for that county; and shall have  
6 power, upon petition of the state, county, city,  
7 town, corporation or person liable in whole or  
8 in part for the expense of maintaining and repair-  
9 ing any of the aforesaid bridges in that county,  
10 and after a hearing, of which all parties con-  
11 cerned, and the public, shall duly be notified,  
12 to confirm the said liability, or to redistribute  
13 it and to replace it, in whole or in part, upon  
14 the state, or upon any county, city, town, cor-  
15 poration or person benefited by the said bridge.  
16 From such decision there shall be no appeal.

1 SECTION 4. The chairman of the Massachu-  
2 setts highway commission shall be the chair-

3 man of the said board of revision and appeal,  
4 but he shall be entitled to vote upon every ques-  
5 tion before the board. The decisions of the  
6 board shall be made by a majority vote, each  
7 member being entitled to a vote. Five members  
8 of the board shall constitute a quorum, and may  
9 hear and decide cases: *provided*, that there shall  
10 be present the judge of probate, not less than two  
11 members of the Massachusetts highway commis-  
12 sion, and not less than two county commissioners.

1 SECTION 5. No liability incurred prior to the  
2 first day of January in the year nineteen hundred  
3 and two, and no contract then pending in relation  
4 to any of the aforesaid bridges, except for main-  
5 tenance and repairs, shall be affected by this act.  
6 But no future contracts shall be made, prior to the  
7 first day of January in the year nineteen hundred  
8 and two, covering any period beyond the first day  
9 of April in the year nineteen hundred and two.

1 SECTION 6. No person regularly employed  
2 upon or in connection with any of the aforesaid  
3 bridges shall, after the first day of January in the  
4 year nineteen hundred and two, be discharged,  
5 except for cause duly stated in writing to or by  
6 the Massachusetts highway commission.

1 SECTION 7. Except as stated in section one  
2 hereof, this act shall take effect upon its passage.

