

November 9, 1921.

[S. 1072.]

[Public, No. 87.]

CHAP. 119.—An Act To amend the Act entitled "An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in the construction of rural post roads, and for other purposes," approved July 11, 1916, as amended and supplemented, and for other purposes.

Federal Highway
Act.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the Federal Highway Act.

Meaning of terms.

SEC. 2. That, when used in this Act, unless the context indicates otherwise—

"Federal Aid Act."
Vol. 39, p. 355.

The term "Federal Aid Act" means the Act entitled "An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in the construction of rural post roads, and for other purposes," approved July 11, 1916, as amended by sections 5 and 6 of an Act entitled "An Act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, and for other purposes," approved February 28, 1919, and all other Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto.

Vol. 40, p. 1200.

"Highway."

The term "highway" includes rights of way, bridges, drainage structures, signs, guard rails, and protective structures in connection with highways, but shall not include any highway or street in a municipality having a population of two thousand five hundred or more as shown by the last available census, except that portion of any such highway or street along which within a distance of one mile the houses average more than two hundred feet apart.

Limitation.

"State highway department."

The term "State highway department" includes any State department, commission, board, or official having adequate powers and suitably equipped and organized to discharge to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Agriculture the duties herein required.

"Maintenance."

The term "maintenance" means the constant making of needed repairs to preserve a smooth surfaced highway.

"Construction."

The term "construction" means the supervising, inspecting, actual building, and all expenses incidental to the construction of a highway, except locating, surveying, mapping, and costs of rights of way.

"Reconstruction."

The term "reconstruction" means a widening or a rebuilding of the highway or any portion thereof to make it a continuous road, and of sufficient width and strength to care adequately for traffic needs.

"Forest roads."

The term "forest roads" means roads wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the national forests.

"State funds."

The term "State funds" includes for the purposes of this Act funds raised under the authority of the State, or any political or other subdivision thereof, and made available for expenditure under the direct control of the State highway department.

Council of National
Defense.
Powers of, in locating
highways, etc.,
transferred to Secretary
of Agriculture.
Vol. 39, p. 650.

SEC. 3. All powers and duties of the Council of National Defense under the Act entitled "An Act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, and for other purposes," approved August 29, 1916, in relation to highway or highway transport, are hereby transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Council of National Defense is directed to turn over to the Secretary of Agriculture the equipment, material, supplies, papers, maps, and documents utilized in the exercise of such powers. The powers and duties of agencies dealing with highways in the national parks or in military or naval reservations under the control of the United States Army or Navy, or with highways used principally for military or naval purposes, shall not be taken over by the Secretary of Agriculture, but such highways shall remain under the control and jurisdiction of such agencies.

National parks, military
and naval reservations.
Control of highways
in, not disturbed.

Indian reservations.
Cooperative road
construction in.

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to cooperate with the State highway departments, and with the Department of the Interior in the construction of public highways within Indian reservations,

*This part amended
by act of June 26, 1920
(chap. 593)*

and to pay the amount assumed therefor from the funds allotted or apportioned under this Act to the State wherein the reservation is located.

SEC. 4. That the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an accounting division which shall devise and install a proper method of keeping the accounts.

Accounting division established.

SEC. 5. That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture, upon his request, all war material, equipment, and supplies now or hereafter declared surplus from stock now on hand and not needed for the purposes of the War Department but suitable for use in the improvement of highways, and that the same shall be distributed among the highway departments of the several States to be used in the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of highways, such distribution to be upon the same basis as that hereinafter provided for in this Act in the distribution of Federal-aid fund: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture, in his discretion, may reserve from such distribution not to exceed 10 per centum of such material, equipment, and supplies for use in the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of national forest roads or other roads constructed, reconstructed, or maintained under his direct supervision.

Surplus Army road construction materials, etc., transferred.

Distribution for State use.

Proviso.
Reservation for national forests, etc.

SEC. 6. That in approving projects to receive Federal aid under the provisions of this Act the Secretary of Agriculture shall give preference to such projects as will expedite the completion of an adequate and connected system of highways, interstate in character.

Interstate highways systems.
Preference to projects for connected, etc.

Before any projects are approved in any State, such State, through its State highway department, shall select or designate a system of highways not to exceed 7 per centum of the total highway mileage of such State as shown by the records of the State highway department at the time of the passage of this Act.

Mileage to be designated by States.

Upon this system all Federal-aid apportionments shall be expended.

Federal aid thereto.

Highways which may receive Federal aid shall be divided into two classes, one of which shall be known as primary or interstate highways, and shall not exceed three-sevenths of the total mileage which may receive Federal aid, and the other which shall connect or correlate therewith and be known as secondary or intercounty highways, and shall consist of the remainder of the mileage which may receive Federal aid.

Classification of highways.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall have authority to approve in whole or in part the systems as designated or to require modifications or revisions thereof: *Provided*, That the States shall submit to the Secretary of Agriculture for his approval any proposed revisions of the designated systems of highways above provided for.

Approval, etc., of systems.

Proviso.
Proposed revisions.

Not more than 60 per centum of all Federal aid allotted to any State shall be expended upon the primary or interstate highways until provision has been made for the improvement of the entire system of such highways: *Provided*, That with the approval of any State highway department the Secretary of Agriculture may approve the expenditure of more than 60 per centum of the Federal aid apportioned to such State upon the primary or interstate highways in such State.

Limitation until entire system provided for.

Proviso.
Additional to primary highways.

The Secretary of Agriculture may approve projects submitted by the State highway departments prior to the selection, designation, and approval of the system of Federal-aid highways herein provided for if he may reasonably anticipate that such projects will become a part of such system.

Approval of prior projects permitted.

Whenever provision has been made by any State for the completion and maintenance of a system of primary or interstate and secondary or intercounty highways equal to 7 per centum of the total mileage of such State, as required by this Act, said State, through its State highway department, by and with the approval of the Sec-

Additional mileage construction authorized when completion of 7 per cent provided for.

retary of Agriculture, is hereby authorized to add to the mileage of primary or interstate and secondary or intercounty systems as funds become available for the construction and maintenance of such additional mileage.

State to provide funds for construction before projects may be approved.

SEC. 7. That before any project shall be approved by the Secretary of Agriculture for any State such State shall make provisions for State funds required each year of such States by this Act for construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of all Federal-aid highways within the State, which funds shall be under the direct control of the State highway department.

Adequate construction materials, etc., required.

SEC. 8. That only such durable types of surface and kinds of materials shall be adopted for the construction and reconstruction of any highway which is a part of the primary or interstate and secondary or intercounty systems as will adequately meet the existing and probable future traffic needs and conditions thereon. The Secretary of Agriculture shall approve the types and width of construction and reconstruction and the character of improvement, repair, and maintenance in each case, consideration being given to the type and character which shall be best suited for each locality and to the probable character and extent of the future traffic.

Approval of types, etc., by Secretary.

Freedom from tolls.

SEC. 9. That all highways constructed or reconstructed under the provisions of this Act shall be free from tolls of all kinds.

Width of roadway, etc.

That all highways in the primary or interstate system constructed after the passage of this Act shall have a right of way of ample width and a wearing surface of an adequate width which shall not be less than eighteen feet, unless, in the opinion of the Secretary of Agriculture, it is rendered impracticable by physical conditions, excessive costs, probable traffic requirements, or legal obstacles.

Apportionment available on certificate from governor of action of State.

SEC. 10. That when any State shall have met the requirements of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, upon receipt of certification from the governor of such State to such effect, approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, shall immediately make available to such State, for the purpose set forth in this Act, the sum apportioned to such State as herein provided.

Submission of proposed projects.

SEC. 11. That any State having complied with the provisions of this Act, and desiring to avail itself of the benefits thereof, shall by its State highway department submit to the Secretary of Agriculture project statements setting forth proposed construction or reconstruction of any primary or interstate, or secondary or intercounty highway therein. If the Secretary of Agriculture approve the project, the State highway department shall furnish to him such surveys, plans, specifications, and estimates therefor as he may require; items included for engineering, inspection, and unforeseen contingencies shall not exceed 10 per centum of the total estimated cost of its construction.

Plans, etc., if project approved.

Notification of approval, etc.

That when the Secretary of Agriculture approves such surveys, plans, specifications, and estimates, he shall notify the State highway department and immediately certify the fact to the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary of the Treasury shall thereupon set aside the share of the United States payable under this Act on account of such projects, which shall not exceed 50 per centum of the total estimated cost thereof, except that in the case of any State containing unappropriated public lands exceeding 5 per centum of the total area of all lands in the State, the share of the United States payable under this Act on account of such projects shall not exceed 50 per centum of the total estimated cost thereof plus a percentage of such estimated cost equal to one-half of the percentage which the area of the unappropriated public lands in such State bears to the total area of such State: *Provided*, That the limitation of payments not to exceed \$20,000 per mile, under existing law, which the Secretary of

Amount to be set aside therefor.

In public land States.
Post, p. 661.

Proviso.
Limit increased.

Agriculture may make be, and the same is hereby, increased in proportion to the increased percentage of Federal aid authorized by this section: *Provided further*, That these provisions relative to the public-land States shall apply to all unobligated or unmatched funds appropriated by the Federal Aid Act and payment for approved projects upon which actual building construction work had not begun on the 30th day of June, 1921.

Applicable to unused funds.

SEC. 12. That the construction and reconstruction of the highways or parts of highways under the provisions of this Act, and all contracts, plans, specifications, and estimates relating thereto, shall be undertaken by the State highway departments subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture. The construction and reconstruction work and labor in each State shall be done in accordance with its laws and under the direct supervision of the State highway department, subject to the inspection and approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and in accordance with the rules and regulations pursuant to this Act.

Construction, etc., by State highway departments.

Approval by Secretary, etc.

SEC. 13. That when the Secretary of Agriculture shall find that any project approved by him has been constructed or reconstructed in compliance with said plans and specifications, he shall cause to be paid to the proper authorities of said State the amount set aside for said project.

Payment on completion of project.

That the Secretary of Agriculture may, in his discretion, from time to time, make payments on such construction or reconstruction as the work progresses, but these payments, including previous payments, if any, shall not be more than the United States pro rata part of the value of the labor and materials which have been actually put into such construction or reconstruction in conformity to said plans and specifications. The Secretary of Agriculture and the State highway department of each State may jointly determine at what time and in what amounts payments as work progresses shall be made under this Act.

Advances allowed during construction.

Determination of payments.

Such payments shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, on warrants drawn by the Secretary of Agriculture, to such official or officials or depository as may be designated by the State highway department and authorized under the laws of the State to receive public funds of the State.

Method of payments.

SEC. 14. That should any State fail to maintain any highway within its boundaries after construction or reconstruction under the provisions of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall then serve notice upon the State highway department of that fact, and if within ninety days after receipt of such notice said highway has not been placed in proper condition of maintenance, the Secretary of Agriculture shall proceed immediately to have such highway placed in a proper condition of maintenance and charge the cost thereof against the Federal funds allotted to such State, and shall refuse to approve any other project in such State, except as hereinafter provided.

Service of notice to State on failure to maintain highway.

Procedure if not attended to.

Upon the reimbursement by the State of the amount expended by the Federal Government for such maintenance, said amount shall be paid into the Federal highway fund for reapportionment among all the States for the construction of roads under this Act, and the Secretary of Agriculture shall then approve further projects submitted by the State as in this Act provided.

Other projects to be refused.

Action if reimbursement by the State.

Whenever it shall become necessary for the Secretary of Agriculture under the provisions of this Act to place any highway in a proper condition of maintenance the Secretary of Agriculture shall contract with some responsible party or parties for doing such work: *Provided, however*, That in case he is not able to secure a satisfactory contract he may purchase, lease, hire, or otherwise obtain all necessary supplies, equipment, and labor, and may operate and maintain such motor and other equipment and facilities as in his

Authority of Secretary to contract for repairs, etc.

Proviso. Work other than by contract.

- judgment are necessary for the proper and efficient performance of his functions.
- Map of approved systems, etc., to be prepared.
- Annual supplements.
- Conveyance of public rights of way consented to.
- Use of public lands for rights of way or materials.
- Application for.
- Transfer to State authorities if not objected to.
- Reversion when no longer needed.
- Rules, etc., to be prescribed.
- Annual detailed statements from Secretary.
- Special report.
- Appropriation for fiscal year 1922.
- SEC. 15. That within two years after this Act takes effect the Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare, publish, and distribute a map showing the highways and forest roads that have been selected and approved as a part of the primary or interstate, and the secondary or intercounty systems, and at least annually thereafter shall publish supplementary maps showing his program and the progress made in selection, construction, and reconstruction.
- SEC. 16. That for the purpose of this Act the consent of the United States is hereby given to any railroad or canal company to convey to the highway department of any State any part of its right of way or other property in that State acquired by grant from the United States.
- SEC. 17. That if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that any part of the public lands or reservations of the United States is reasonably necessary for the right of way of any highway or forest road or as a source of materials for the construction or maintenance of any such highway or forest road adjacent to such lands or reservations, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file with the Secretary of the department supervising the administration of such land or reservation a map showing the portion of such lands or reservations which it is desired to appropriate.
- If within a period of four months after such filing the said Secretary shall not have certified to the Secretary of Agriculture that the proposed appropriation of such land or material is contrary to the public interest or inconsistent with the purposes for which such land or materials have been reserved, or shall have agreed to the appropriation and transfer under conditions which he deems necessary for the adequate protection and utilization of the reserve, then such land and materials may be appropriated and transferred to the State highway department for such purposes and subject to the conditions so specified.
- If at any time the need for any such lands or materials for such purposes shall no longer exist, notice of the fact shall be given by the State highway department to the Secretary of Agriculture, and such lands or materials shall immediately revert to the control of the Secretary of the department from which they had been appropriated.
- SEC. 18. That the Secretary of Agriculture shall prescribe and promulgate all needful rules and regulations for the carrying out of the provisions of this Act, including such recommendations to the Congress and the State highway departments as he may deem necessary for preserving and protecting the highways and insuring the safety of traffic thereon.
- SEC. 19. That on or before the first Monday in December of each year the Secretary of Agriculture shall make a report to Congress, which shall include a detailed statement of the work done, the status of each project undertaken, the allocation of appropriations, an itemized statement of the expenditures and receipts during the preceding fiscal year under this Act, an itemized statement of the traveling and other expenses, including a list of employees, their duties, salaries, and traveling expenses, if any, and his recommendations, if any, for new legislation amending or supplementing this Act. The Secretary of Agriculture shall also make such special reports as Congress may request.
- SEC. 20. That for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act there is hereby appropriated, out of the moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$75,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922, \$25,000,000 of which shall become immediately

available, and \$50,000,000 of which shall become available January 1, 1922.

SEC. 21. That so much, not to exceed 2½ per centum, of all moneys hereby or hereafter appropriated for expenditure under the provisions of this Act, as the Secretary of Agriculture may deem necessary for administering the provisions of this Act and for carrying on necessary highway research and investigational studies independently or in cooperation with the State highway departments and other research agencies, and for publishing the results thereof, shall be deducted for such purposes, available until expended.

Within sixty days after the close of each fiscal year the Secretary of Agriculture shall determine what part, if any, of the sums theretofore deducted for such purposes will not be needed and apportion such part, if any, for the fiscal year then current in the same manner and on the same basis as are other amounts authorized by this Act apportioned among all the States, and shall certify such apportionment to the Secretary of the Treasury and to the State highway departments.

The Secretary of Agriculture, after making the deduction authorized by this section, shall apportion the remainder of the appropriation made for expenditure under the provision of the Act for the fiscal year among the several States in the following manner: One-third in the ratio which the area of each State bears to the total area of all the States; one-third in the ratio which the population of each State bears to the total population of all the States, as shown by the latest available Federal census; one-third in the ratio which the mileage of rural delivery routes and star routes in each State bears to the total mileage of rural delivery and star routes in all the States at the close of the next preceding fiscal year, as shown by certificate of the Postmaster General, which he is directed to make and furnish annually to the Secretary of Agriculture: *Provided*, That no State shall receive less than one-half of 1 per centum of each year's allotment. All moneys herein or hereafter appropriated for expenditure under the provisions of this Act shall be available until the close of the second succeeding fiscal year for which apportionment was made: *Provided further*, That any sums apportioned to any State under the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in the construction of rural post roads, and for other purposes," approved July 11, 1916, and all Acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, shall be available for expenditure in that State for the purpose set forth in such Acts until two years after the close of the respective fiscal years for which any such sums become available, and any amount so apportioned remaining unexpended at the end of the period during which it is available for expenditure under the terms of such Acts shall be reapportioned according to the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in the construction of rural post roads, and for other purposes," approved July 11, 1916: *And provided further*, That any amount apportioned under the provisions of this Act unexpended at the end of the period during which it is available for expenditure under the terms of this section shall be reapportioned within sixty days thereafter to all the States in the same manner and on the same basis, and certified to the Secretary of the Treasury and the State highway departments in the same way as if it were being apportioned under this Act for the first time.

SEC. 22. That within sixty days after the approval of this Act the Secretary of Agriculture shall certify to the Secretary of the Treasury and to each of the State highway departments the sum he has estimated to be deducted for administering the provisions of this Act and the sums which he has apportioned to each State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922, and on or before January 20 next preceding

Administration, etc., expenses to be deducted.

Apportionment of unexpended balances.

Ratio of apportionment.

To area.

To population.

To rural delivery and star routes mileage.

Provisos.
Minimum.
Available for succeeding year.

Apportionment under former laws available for two years.
Vol. 39, p. 356; Vol. 40, p. 1201.
Post, p. 660.

Unexpended balances to be apportioned according to same laws.

Reapportionment of unexpended balances to States.

Certification of amounts apportioned for each year.

National forests.
Appropriation for
roads and trails in, for
1922 and 1923.
Post, p. 660.

Amount authorized
for roads and trails of
primary importance to
national forests.

To develop resources
of adjacent communi-
ties, etc.
Apportionment.

Balance for roads of
primary importance to
adjacent communities,
etc.
Apportionment.

Acceptance of State,
etc., cooperation.

Construction by
States, etc.

Contracts for con-
struction work.

Work by the Secre-
tary.

Use of appropria-
tions for expenses.

Temporary approval
of projects when State
laws do not allow use
of its funds.
Post, p. 661.

the commencement of each succeeding fiscal year, and shall make like certificates for each fiscal year.

SEC. 23. That out of the moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is hereby appropriated for the survey, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of forest roads and trails, the sum of \$5,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922, available immediately and until expended, and \$10,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923, available until expended.

(a) Fifty per centum, but not to exceed \$3,000,000 for any one fiscal year, of the appropriation made or that may hereafter be made for expenditure under the provisions of this section shall be expended under the direct supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture in the survey, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of roads and trails of primary importance for the protection, administration, and utilization of the national forests, or when necessary, for the use and development of resources upon which communities within or adjacent to the national forests are dependent, and shall be apportioned among the several States, Alaska, and Porto Rico by the Secretary of Agriculture, according to the relative needs of the various national forests, taking into consideration the existing transportation facilities, value of timber, or other resources served, relative fire danger, and comparative difficulties of road and trail construction.

The balance of such appropriations shall be expended by the Secretary of Agriculture in the survey, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of forest roads of primary importance to the State, counties, or communities within, adjoining, or adjacent to the national forests, and shall be prorated and apportioned by the Secretary of Agriculture for expenditures in the several States, Alaska, and Porto Rico, according to the area and value of the land owned by the Government within the national forests therein as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture from such information, investigation, sources, and departments as the Secretary of Agriculture may deem most accurate.

(b) Cooperation of Territories, States, and civil subdivisions thereof may be accepted but shall not be required by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture may enter into contracts with any Territory, State, or civil subdivision thereof for the construction, reconstruction, or maintenance of any forest road or trail or part thereof.

(d) Construction work on forest roads or trails estimated to cost \$5,000 or more per mile, exclusive of bridges, shall be advertised and let to contract.

If such estimated cost is less than \$5,000 per mile, or if, after proper advertising, no acceptable bid is received, or the bids are deemed excessive, the work may be done by the Secretary of Agriculture on his own account; and for such purpose the Secretary of Agriculture may purchase, lease, hire, rent, or otherwise obtain all necessary supplies, materials, tools, equipment, and facilities required to perform the work.

The appropriation made in this section or that may hereafter be made for expenditure under the provisions of this section may be expended for the purpose herein authorized and for the payment of wages, salaries, and other expenses for help employed in connection with such work.

SEC. 24. That in any State where the existing constitution or laws will not permit the State to provide revenues for the construction, reconstruction, or maintenance of highways, the Secretary of Agriculture shall continue to approve projects for said State until three years after the passage of this Act, if he shall find that said State has complied with the provisions of this Act in so far as its existing constitution and laws will permit.

SEC. 25. That if any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, shall be held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the Act and of the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Invalidity of any provision, etc., not to affect remainder of Act.

SEC. 26. That all Acts or parts of Acts in any way inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, and this Act shall take effect on its passage.

Inconsistent laws repealed.

Approved, November 9, 1921.

CHAP. 120.—An Act To authorize the construction of a bridge across Pearl River, between Meeks Ferry and Grigsbys Ferry and between Madison County, Mississippi, and Rankin County, Mississippi.

November 14, 1921.
[S. 2447.]
[Public, No. 88.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Pearl River Valley Lumber Company is hereby authorized to construct a bridge across Pearl River, at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, between Meeks Ferry and Grigsbys Ferry and between Madison County, Mississippi, and Rankin County, Mississippi, in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters," approved March 23, 1906.

Pearl River.
Pearl River Valley Lumber Company may bridge, Meeks Ferry to Grigsby Ferry, Miss.

Construction.
Vol. 34, p. 84.

Amendment.

SEC. 2. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, November 14, 1921.

CHAP. 121.—An Act To authorize the construction of drawless bridges across a certain portion of the Charles River in the State of Massachusetts.

November 14, 1921.
[H. R. 6152.]
[Public, No. 89.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Metropolitan Park Commission, or any town or city, or any other public body authorized by the State of Massachusetts, all or any of them, be, and they hereby are, authorized to construct, at any time hereafter, drawless bridges across the Charles River in the State of Massachusetts connecting Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge and Massachusetts Avenue in Boston, and at any other points upon said river at, near, or above said Massachusetts Avenue: *Provided*, That said bridges shall be at least twelve feet above the ordinary level of the water in the basin over the main ship channel, and the piers and other obstructions to the flow of the river shall be constructed in such form and in such places as the Secretary of War shall approve: *Provided further*, That before the construction of said bridges or any of them is begun, the State of Massachusetts shall, by legislative enactment, provide for adequate compensation for the owner, owners, lessee, or lessees of property abutting on said river above any of the said bridges, for damages, if any, caused to said property or leasehold interests therein by reason of interference with the access by water to said property, due to the construction of bridges without draws: *And provided further*, That the said legislative enactment shall provide for the appointment of three commissioners to hear the parties in interest and assess the damages to said property; their decision as to the amount of damages and questions of fact to be final; said commissioners to be appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. Except as inconsistent herewith, this Act shall be subject to the provisions of an Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters," approved March 23, 1906.

Charles River.
Drawless bridges authorized across, by State authorities, between Boston and Cambridge, Mass.
Post, p. 1264.

Provisos.
Height, etc.

Compensation for damages to property owners required.

State commissioners to assess.

Construction.
Vol. 34, p. 84.

Amendment.

SEC. 2. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, November 14, 1921.