

CHAPTER 75

An Act providing for participation in the construction of a memorial bridge at Washington Crossing and the appointment of a bridge commission, and appropriating money therefor.

Whereas, On the night of December twenty-fifth and the day of the twenty-sixth, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, Washington crossed the Delaware and won the battle of Trenton, and as December twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six, will be the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of this significant event in the Revolutionary struggle for the cause of liberty, and as meanwhile there has been no fitting memorial erected at this spot; and

Whereas, The States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania have commenced the establishment of historical parks on the two sides of the river, and have developed a plan which contemplates connecting these parks by a memorial bridge which will be composed of thirteen sections, which will suitably commemorate the part performed by each of the colonies; and

Whereas, It is estimated that the memorial bridge will require the expenditure of eight hundred thousand dollars; and

Whereas, It is proposed that the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania shall each contribute one-quarter of this sum, and the United States by congressional appropriation one-half this sum; and

Whereas, There is now before the Congress of the United States a joint resolution to this effect; and

Whereas, Said resolution provides also for the appointment of a National Washington Crossing Commission of fifteen members, five to be appointed

by the President of the United States, and five each by the Governors of New Jersey and Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, It is designed that the bridge may be finished and ready for dedication on December twenty-sixth, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the crossing of the river by Washington and his troops; therefore

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Governor is hereby authorized to appoint by and with the advice and consent of the Senate five persons to be members of a National Washington Crossing Commission when such commission shall have been authorized by act or resolution of Congress; provided, however, that at least three of such appointees shall be from the membership of the board which has control of the Washington Crossing Park.

2. The sum of two hundred thousand dollars is hereby appropriated, payable in amounts of fifty thousand dollars in each of four consecutive years commencing with the fiscal year beginning July first, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three when included in the annual appropriation bills for such successive years, to the use of said commission in meeting the State's share of the cost of said memorial bridge. For the purpose of entering into contracts for said bridge and its approaches the entire appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars shall be considered to have been made; provided, however, that no contract shall call for the expenditure by the State of New Jersey in any fiscal year of more than the sum available under the appropriation bill for the year and any preceding year.

3. This act shall take effect immediately, but its provisions shall not be operative, and no appropriation made in accordance herewith shall be available for expenditure, unless and until the Congress of the United States and the

Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania shall appropriate their
respective shares for this project.

Approved March 16, 1923.