

Office of the Vermont Secretary of State
Vermont State Archives

**Veto Message: Governor Clement
1919 (H.207)**

An act to appropriate a sum of money to build, maintain and operate a public barge terminal at the port of Burlington, on Lake Champlain, and creating a barge terminal commission.

STATE OF VERMONT
Executive Department.
Montpelier, Vt., April 4, 1919

Whereupon, the Speaker laid before the House a veto message from His Excellency, the governor, as follows:

To the House of Representatives:

I have the honor to return herewith, without my approval, House bill, entitled H. 207 "An act to appropriate a sum of money to build, maintain and operate a public barge terminal at the port of Burlington, on Lake Champlain, and creating a barge terminal commission," for the following reason:

In view of the existing conditions of the state finances and faced as we are with a largely increased state tax to provide for the necessary expenses of government and the special appropriations already made by this General Assembly, it does not seem to me that it is the proper time for the state to embark in an enterprise of this character which requires the expenditure of so large a sum of money whether raised by bond issue or tax and the outcome of which is not only highly problematical but largely a speculation. I am advised that as yet there are no barges available for the transportation of any freight to this port and that at the present time it would be impossible for barges of the size and character required for the profitable operation of such a barge terminal to pass through the so-called "Narrows" of Lake Champlain, and there is no definite assurance that the conditions there existing will be remedied in the near future so as to permit such operation

nor is there any immediate prospect of freight available which can be economically transported by this means in an amount sufficient to warrant the state in adopting this kind of a policy.

However advantageous water transportation may be when the surrounding conditions and circumstances are such as to make it a profitable investment, I believe that it is time enough for the state to take up the question of the state barge terminal when such circumstances and conditions exist and it is admitted that they do not exist today.

PERCIVAL W. CLEMENT,
Governor.

Governor's Veto Sustained
H.207, 1919

The Governor's veto was sustained in the House:
Yeas 59 Nays 116

Sources: *Journal of the House*, April 7, 1919 (pages 634-636)