Sec. 4. The authority shall employ 3 consulting engineers to be recommended by the dean of the college of engineering of the university of Michigan, who shall constitute a board of consulting engineers and who shall determine whether a bridge can be safely and feasibly constructed across the straits of Mackinac and the probable cost thereof. Said engineers shall be well qualified and experienced in the design of major bridge structures. It is the intent of the legislature that eminent bridge engineers actually experienced in the design of large major bridges be selected, to the end that the physical and financial feasibility of a straits bridge can be finally determined. None of said engineers shall be eligible as individuals, nor shall any firm or corporation with which they are associated be eligible to act in any capacity in connection with the design, construction and financing of the bridge subsequent to their determination of feasibility, except in an advisory or consulting capacity. The authority shall furnish such geologists and other technicians and such information as may be required by said board of consulting engineers and for that purpose is authorized and empowered to make surveys, soundings, borings, estimates, and all preliminary investigations deemed necessary by said board of consulting engineers to determine the feasibility of such bridge construction. The determination of said board of consulting engineers shall be transmitted to the legislature as a part of the report of the authority. The authority shall submit to the legislature a complete report of its activity and recommendations concerning the construction of a bridge, the probable cost thereof, proposals for the financing thereof, the cost of maintenance and operation and the probable toll required to make the venture self-supporting, and other matters which the authority shall deem of interest to the people of the state. The authority and the said board of consulting engineers shall have access to all relative engineering data and findings heretofore made through the expenditure of state funds.


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