

## **131st MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

**Legislative Document** 

No. 749

S.P. 307

In Senate, February 16, 2023

An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide a New Dormitory Facility at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, GROHOSKI of Hancock, PIERCE of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, STEWART of Aroostook, Representative: BABIN of Fort Fairfield.

1 **Preamble.** Two thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in 2 accordance with the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 14 to authorize the issuance 3 of bonds on behalf of the State of Maine to provide funds as described in this Act,

4 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

5 Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds. The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the 6 direction of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on behalf of the State in an 7 amount not exceeding \$3,000,000 for the purposes described in section 5 of this Act. The 8 bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for a 9 period longer than 10 years from the date of the original issue of the bonds.

10 Sec. 2. Records of bonds issued; Treasurer of State. The Treasurer of State 11 shall ensure that an account of each bond is kept showing the number of the bond, the name 12 of the successful bidder to whom sold, the amount received for the bond, the date of sale 13 and the date when payable.

14 Sec. 3. Sale; how negotiated; proceeds appropriated. The Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale of the bonds by direction of the Governor, but no bond may be 15 loaned, pledged or hypothecated on behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of the 16 bonds, which must be held by the Treasurer of State and paid by the Treasurer of State 17 upon warrants drawn by the State Controller, are appropriated solely for the purposes set 18 19 forth in this Act. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the project in this Act lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of 20 general obligation bonds. 21

Sec. 4. Interest and debt retirement. The Treasurer of State shall pay interest
due or accruing on any bonds issued under this Act and all sums coming due for payment
of bonds at maturity.

Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds from General Fund bond issue. The proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized under this Act must be expended as designated in the following schedule under the direction and supervision of the agencies and entities set forth in this section.

- 29 EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF
- 30 Maine School of Science and Mathematics
  - Provides funds for a new dormitory facility.
- 32 Total

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\$3,000,000

Sec. 6. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue. Sections 1 to 5 do not
become effective unless the people of the State ratify the issuance of the bonds as set forth
in this Act.

36 Sec. 7. Appropriation balances at year-end. At the end of each fiscal year, all 37 unencumbered appropriation balances representing state money carry forward. Bond 38 proceeds that have not been expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the bonds 39 lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of general 40 obligation bonds. 1 Sec. 8. Bonds authorized but not issued. Any bonds authorized but not issued within 5 years of ratification of this Act are deauthorized and may not be issued, except 2 3 that the Legislature may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period, extend the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds for an additional amount of time not 4 5 to exceed 5 years.

6 Sec. 9. Referendum for ratification; submission at election; form of 7 question; effective date. This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the State at 8 a statewide election held in the month of November following passage of this Act. The 9 municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, 10 to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question: 11

"Do you favor a \$3,000,000 bond issue to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics for a new dormitory facility?"

14 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square 15 below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared 16 in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in 17 the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the 18 19 returns. If a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of this Act, the Governor shall proclaim the result without delay and this Act becomes effective 30 days after the date of 20 the proclamation. 21

22 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this 23 24 referendum.

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## SUMMARY

26 The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$3,000,000, will be used for a 27 new dormitory facility at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.