



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 874

S.P. 278

In Senate, March 8, 2011

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Educational Opportunities for Underserved Regions of the State

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

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.

Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ALFOND of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative WAGNER of Lewiston and
Senators: JACKSON of Aroostook, TRAHAN of Lincoln, Representatives: LOVEJOY of
Portland, NELSON of Falmouth.

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
3 issuance of bonds on behalf of the State of Maine to provide funds as described in this
4 Act,

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

6 **Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds.** The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the
7 direction of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on behalf of the State in an
8 amount not exceeding \$27,100,000 for the purposes described in section 5 of this Act.
9 The bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for
10 a period longer than 10 years from the date of the original issue of the bonds.

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

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

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

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

30 **UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM**

31 **University of Maine**
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33 Provides funds to expand regional resource centers to meet rural kindergarten to
34 grade 12 equipment and training needs for teacher professional development in
35 science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

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37 Total \$3,000,000

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University of Maine at Augusta

Provides funds to upgrade classrooms, laboratories, equipment and other capital infrastructure to support health degree programs such as nursing and medical laboratory, dental and veterinary technicians.

Total \$2,000,000

University of Maine at Farmington

Provides funds to upgrade the Ricker Hall science laboratory and classroom complex including laboratories, equipment, the building envelope and geothermal heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

Total \$2,000,000

University of Maine at Fort Kent

Provides funds for infrastructure improvements to support information technology, science and nursing laboratories and wildlife and fisheries sciences.

Total \$2,100,000

University of Maine at Machias

Provides funds for laboratory and science building upgrades to advance economic development in rural Washington County.

Total \$2,200,000

University of Maine at Presque Isle

Provides funds to upgrade campus science laboratories and equipment, install interactive technology and make other infrastructure improvements to enhance the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Total \$2,000,000

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University of Southern Maine

Provides funds for the renovation to modern standards of 6 laboratories on the Portland and Gorham campuses.

Total \$3,000,000

MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Central Maine Community College

Provides funds for mobile laptop computer carts and computers and a van with a ramp and shelves.

Total \$390,000

Eastern Maine Community College

Provides funds for wireless connectivity, video conferencing, installation of interactive white board classrooms, the upgrade and refurbishment of computer laboratories, mobile laptop computer carts and computers and a van with a ramp and shelves.

Total \$290,000

Kennebec Valley Community College

Provides funds for new desktop computers, netbook and laptop computer mobile laboratories, upgrades to core infrastructure, software licenses, video conferencing, a classroom wing addition and a van with a ramp and shelves.

Total \$5,463,000

Northern Maine Community College

1 Provides funds for mobile laptop computer carts and computers, a van with a ramp
2 and shelves, instructional equipment to upgrade classrooms including interactive
3 white boards, heating, ventilation and technology upgrades in the Christie Complex
4 and renovation of the welding facility and classroom equipment.

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6 Total \$1,759,000

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8 **Southern Maine Community College**

9 Provides funds for equipment for computer classrooms, upgrades to software that
10 allows for teaching over the Internet, mobile laboratories for health sciences and
11 welding, mobile laptop computer carts and computers and a van with a ramp and
12 shelves.

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14 Total \$680,000

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16 **Washington County Community College**

17 Provides funds for wireless access, the conversion and upgrade of the lecture hall
18 electronic environment, the renovation of and construction of an addition to Howland
19 Hall and equipment for a new computer systems technology program.

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21 Total \$1,920,000

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23 **York County Community College**

24 Provides funds for a video conferencing system, mobile laptop computer carts and
25 computers and a van with a ramp and shelves.

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27 Total \$298,000

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

31 **Sec. 7. Appropriation balances at year-end.** At the end of each fiscal year, all
32 unencumbered appropriation balances representing state money carry forward. Bond
33 proceeds that have not been expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the

1 bonds lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of general
2 obligation bonds.

3 **Sec. 8. Bonds authorized but not issued.** Any bonds authorized but not issued
4 within 5 years of ratification of this Act are deauthorized and may not be issued, except
5 that the Legislature may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period, extend
6 the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds for an additional amount of time not
7 to exceed 5 years.

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

14 "Do you favor a \$27,100,000 bond issue to improve and enhance the
15 University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System
16 by upgrading equipment and facilities to serve the underserved regions of
17 the State?"

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

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

29 **SUMMARY**

30 The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$27,100,000, will be used to
31 improve equipment and facilities at the University of Maine System and the Maine
32 Community College System to better serve the underserved regions of the State.