

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE-HUNDRETH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1698

H. P. 1233

House of Representatives, November 27, 1961

Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Schulten of Woolwich.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-ONE

AN ACT Providing for Construction of an Educational Television Network for the State of Maine and the Issuance of not Exceeding One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars of State of Maine Bonds for the Financing thereof.

Preamble. Two-thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in accordance with Section 14 of Article IX of the Constitution of Maine to authorize the issuance of bonds of the State for construction of an educational television network for the State of Maine.

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

Sec. 1. Advisory Committee on Educational Television. There is created an Advisory Committee on Educational Television for the purpose of facilitating the development of educational television in this State. The Advisory Committee on Educational Television shall consist of 7 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council to serve for a period of 5 years. One member of the committee shall be a representative of the State Department of Education, one member of the committee shall be a representative of the University of Maine and the remaining members shall be representatives of the educational and cultural interests of the State of Maine. Vacancies in membership of the committee shall be filled by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council. Members of the committee shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

Sec. 2. Organization. The committee shall elect a chairman, secretary, vice-chairman and treasurer, each of whose terms of office shall be 2 years. The committee shall meet at the call of its secretary and the committee shall adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations, for the calling and holding of meetings and the administration of its affairs, as it deems appropriate and necessary to

effectuate the purposes of this act. A majority of the membership of the committee present shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of transacting business.

Sec. 3. Powers and duties. The Advisory Committee on Educational Television is empowered and authorized to act as follows:

I. Recommendations. To make such recommendations to the trustees of the University of Maine as it deems necessary relating to the appointment of professional, clerical or other assistants, location of educational television stations and construction and equipment of said stations necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

II. Programs. It shall be the duty of the committee to recommend to the trustees of the University of Maine the educational television programs to be transmitted by the network, provided that no programs shall be transmitted without the advice and consent of the advisory committee.

III. Gifts. The committee is authorized to accept any gift of money, real or personal property and grants-in-aid from the Federal Government to assist in carrying out the purposes of this act and said gifts or grants-in-aid shall be transferred to the University of Maine to be used for the purposes of this act.

Sec. 4. Construction of state-wide educational television network. The University of Maine is authorized to construct, operate, manage and equip transmission and microwave television facilities and to interconnect with any other television network or station within or without this State for the purpose of providing a state-wide educational television network for the transmission of educational television to pupils in the schools, colleges, university and adult audiences throughout the State; and the University of Maine is authorized to enter into contracts for the construction of said facilities, contracts for personal services necessary for the management and operation of said facilities and any other contracts deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

Sec. 5. Promotion of political and governmental activities prohibited. None of the facilities, plant or personnel of any educational television system which is supported in whole or in part by state funds shall be used directly or indirectly for the promotion, advertisement or advancement of any political candidate for any municipal, county or state office or for the purpose of advocating or opposing any specific program, existing or proposed, of governmental action which shall include, but shall not be limited to, constitutional amendments, tax referendums or bond issues. Conviction upon violation of any provision of this section shall be punishable by not more than one year in prison or \$5,000 fine, or by both.

Sec. 6. Disbursement of bond proceeds. The proceeds of the bonds authorized under this act shall be expended under the direction and supervision of the Director of the Bureau of Public Improvements in the following amounts: For state-wide transmission and microwave facilities — \$1,039,028; for microwave interconnection with Eastern Educational Network, Boston — \$60,000; for studio facilities in Orono — \$250,000; to provide for increased costs of equipment since 1960 report — \$50,000; for organizational and operations costs, July 1, 1962 to June 30, 1963 — \$100,972. Total appropriation — \$1,500,000. Such

appropriation shall not lapse, but shall remain a continuing carrying account until the purposes of this act have been accomplished.

Sec. 7. Issue of bonds to provide for construction, repairs, equipment, supplies, furnishings, organization and management. The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction of the Governor and Council, to issue from time to time serial coupon bonds in the name and behalf of the State to an amount not exceeding \$1,500,000 for the purpose of raising funds to provide for such construction, repairs, equipment, supplies, furnishings, organization and management as authorized by this act. Said bonds shall be deemed a pledge of the faith and credit of the State. Said bonds shall not run for a longer period than 10 years from the date of the original issue thereof.

Sec. 8. Records of bonds issued to be kept by State Auditor and Treasurer. The State Auditor shall keep an account of such bonds, showing the number and amount of each, the date of countersigning, the date when payable and the date of delivery thereof to the Treasurer of State, who shall keep an account of each bond, showing the number thereof, the name of the person to whom sold, the amount received for the same, the date of sale and the date when payable.

Sec. 9. Sale, how negotiated; proceeds appropriated. The Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale of such bonds by direction of the Governor and Council; but no such bond shall be loaned, pledged or hypothecated in behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sales of such bonds, which shall be held by the Treasurer of State and paid by him upon warrants drawn by the Governor and Council, are appropriated to be used solely for the purposes set forth in this act.

Sec. 10. Interest and debt retirement. Interest due or accruing upon any bonds issued under this act and all sums coming due for payment of bonds at maturity shall be paid by the Treasurer of State from any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 11. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue. Sections 1 to 10 of this act shall not become effective unless and until the people of the State of Maine shall have ratified the issuance of bonds as set forth in this act.

Sec. 12. Referendum for ratification. The aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns, and the assessors of the several plantations of this State are empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of Senators and Representatives, at the state-wide election to be held on the 3rd Monday of June, 1962, to give in their votes upon the acceptance or rejection of the foregoing act, and the question shall be:

“Shall a bond issue be ratified for the purposes set forth in ‘An Act Providing for Construction of an Educational Television Network for the State of Maine and the Issuance of not Exceeding One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars of State of Maine Bonds for the Financing thereof,’ passed by the First Special Session of the 100th Legislature?”

The inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed within a square upon their ballots their opinion of the same, those in favor of ratification voting "Yes" and those opposed to ratification voting "No" and the ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings, and return made to the office of the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for Governor and Members of the Legislature, and the Governor and Council shall count the same and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of this act, the Governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and this act shall thereupon become effective in 30 days after the date of said proclamation.

Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing act, accompanied by a copy thereof.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. A survey conducted by the University of Maine in 1960 through a grant of \$20,500 from the Ford Foundation determined that a statewide educational television network for Maine is both feasible and desirable.
2. By linking Channel 12, Orono, with Channel 10, Presque Isle, and Channel 7, Calais, and interconnecting these educational stations with educational station WCBB, currently in operation from Augusta, and with connection with the Eastern Educational Network, Boston, an educational television network can be established to provide coverage to 98% of Maine's population and schools.
3. A state-wide educational television network is the most feasible and economical method of upgrading Maine schools and education at all levels through supplementary, enriched programs directed to the school rooms of the State. This activity will also enrich the lives of Maine's adult citizens through cultural and public-service programming.
4. The construction and operating costs of educational station WCBB, Augusta, have been and are being provided by Bates, Colby and Bowdoin Colleges. Costs for the network north of Augusta, and for the Maine Network connection with the Eastern Educational Network, Boston, through state appropriation are:

Transmitters		Interconnections (Maine)	
Orono	\$363,410.00	Augusta-Orono (Two-Way)	\$64,150.00
Calais	264,133.95	Orono-Presque Isle	64,500.00
Presque Isle	254,133.95	Orono-Calais	2,000.00
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	\$881,677.90		<hr/>
			\$130,650.00

Translators		
Two	\$26,700.00	
Connection — Augusta and Eastern Educational Network, Boston		\$ 60,000.00
Provision for Increased Costs of Equipment Since 1960 Report		\$ 50,000.00
Studio — Channel 12, Orono — Alteration of Existing Building for Studio at the University of Maine — Studio Equipment		\$135,000.00 115,000.00
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		\$250,000.00

TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS: \$1,399,027.90

Operations Costs (Organizational expenses of procuring necessary personnel, legal and engineering fees, etc., to place network stations on the air. This cost for the fiscal year, July 1, 1962 to June 30, 1963.)		\$100,972.00
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TOTAL CAPITAL AND OPERATIONS COSTS: \$1,500,000.00

5. The cooperating support of the National Education Defense Act in providing matching funds for television receivers and antennae for local public schools is anticipated, as are grants from the National Education Radio and Television Center for purchase of video tape recorders for the key channels.
6. The establishment of an educational television network, designed to upgrade education at all levels in Maine, and to provide the general public with cultural and public-service programming, has the support of many of the State's educational, industrial and civic leaders.