

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 677

S.P. 241

In Senate, February 14, 2003

**An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of
\$6,000,000 To Enable LifeFlight of Maine to Fully Implement a
Statewide, Dedicated Air-medical Response System**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President DAGGETT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative MAILHOT of Lewiston and
Senators: BRYANT of Oxford, CATHCART of Penobscot, DAVIS of Piscataquis,
Representatives: Speaker COLWELL of Gardiner, DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, JODREY of
Bethel, MILLETT of Waterford, PINGREE of North Haven.

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

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

10 **Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds.** The Treasurer of State is
authorized, under the direction of the Governor, to issue bonds
12 in the name and on behalf of the State in an amount not exceeding
\$6,000,000 to raise funds for the expansion of a statewide,
14 air-medical response system by LifeFlight of Maine through
constructing dedicated, lighted helipads, building additional
16 refueling facilities, upgrading navigational systems, acquiring
training equipment and purchasing helicopters and to meet other
18 costs as authorized by this Act. The bonds are a pledge of the
full faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for a
20 period longer than 10 years from the date of the original issue
of the bonds. At the discretion of the Treasurer of State, with
22 the approval of the Governor, any issuance of bonds may contain a
call feature.

24 **Sec. 2. Records of bonds issued kept by Treasurer of State.** The
Treasurer of State shall keep an account of each bond showing the
26 number of the bond, the name of the successful bidder to whom
sold, the amount received for the bond, the date of sale and the
28 date when payable.

30 **Sec. 3. Sale: how negotiated; proceeds appropriated.** The
Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale of the bonds by
32 direction of the Governor, but no bond may be loaned, pledged or
hypothecated on behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of
34 the bonds, which must be held by the Treasurer of State and paid
by the Treasurer of State upon warrants drawn by the State
36 Controller, are appropriated solely for the purposes set forth in
this Act. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion
38 of the project in this Act lapse to the debt service account
established for the retirement of these bonds.

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

44 **Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds.** The proceeds of the
46 bonds must be expended as set out in this Act under the direction
and supervision of the Commissioner of Public Safety.

2 **Sec. 6. Allocations from General Fund bond issue.** The proceeds
of the sale of the bonds must be expended as designated in the
following schedule.

4 **PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**

6 To provide funds to LifeFlight of Maine \$6,000,000
8 to expand a dedicated air-medical
 response system throughout Maine.

10 **Sec. 7. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue.** Sections 1 to
12 6 do not become effective unless the people of the State ratify
the issuance of the bonds as set forth in this Act.

14 **Sec. 8. Appropriation balances at year-end.** At the end of each
16 fiscal year, all unencumbered appropriation balances representing
state money carry forward. Bond proceeds that have not been
18 expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the bonds
lapse to General Fund debt service.

20 **Sec. 9. Bonds authorized but not issued.** Any bonds authorized
22 but not issued, or for which bond anticipation notes are not
issued within 5 years of ratification of this Act, are
24 deauthorized and may not be issued, except that the Legislature
may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period,
26 extend the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds or
bond anticipation notes for an additional amount of time not to
28 exceed 5 years.

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

40 "Do you favor a \$6,000,000 bond issue to expand the existing
statewide, dedicated air-medical response system through
42 constructing hospital helipads, building additional
refueling facilities, upgrading navigational systems,
44 acquiring training equipment and purchasing helicopters and
to meet other costs to ensure greater and quicker access to
46 health care for severely ill or injured persons?"

48 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a
50 cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below

2 the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,
4 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings
6 and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as
8 votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review
the returns and, 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
the proclamation.

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

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16 SUMMARY

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18 The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of
20 \$6,000,000, will be used by LifeFlight of Maine to develop the
22 expansion of Maine's existing dedicated air-medical response
24 system through constructing additional hospital helipads,
building additional refueling facilities, acquiring training
equipment and purchasing helicopters and to meet other costs in
order to ensure greater and more rapid access to health care for
severely ill or injured persons especially from rural hospitals
and communities.