

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 875

H.P. 594

House of Representatives, March 12, 2015

**An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Improve
Highways, Bridges, Ports, Railroads and Other Multimodal
Facilities**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McLEAN of Gorham.
Cosponsored by Senator VALENTINO of York and
Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, GILLWAY of Searsport, HOBART of Bowdoinham,
HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, NUTTING of Oakland, POWERS of Naples, TURNER of
Burlington, Senator: COLLINS of York.

1 Provides funds to improve or replace facilities or equipment related to ports, harbors,
2 marine transportation, aviation, freight and passenger railroads, transit and bicycle
3 and pedestrian facilities that preserve public safety or otherwise support substantial
4 statewide or regional economic opportunities.

5 Total \$35,000,000

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

9 **Sec. A-7. Appropriation balances at year-end.** At the end of each fiscal year,
10 all unencumbered appropriation balances representing state money carry forward. Bond
11 proceeds that have not been expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the
12 bonds lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of general
13 obligation bonds.

14 **Sec. A-8. Bonds authorized but not issued.** Any bonds authorized but not
15 issued within 5 years of ratification of this Part are deauthorized and may not be issued,
16 except that the Legislature may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period,
17 extend the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds for an additional amount of
18 time not to exceed 5 years.

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

25 "Do you favor a \$190,000,000 bond issue for reconstruction and
26 rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities or equipment
27 related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, aviation, freight and
28 passenger railroads, transit and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, to be
29 used to match an estimated \$290,000,000 in federal and other funds?"

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

38 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all
39 ballots, returns and copies of this Part necessary to carry out the purposes of this
40 referendum.

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PART B

Sec. B-1. Transportation debt policy for capital planning purposes. Due to the capital-intensive nature of transportation investment and the long lead times necessary to plan, permit, design and deliver transportation projects, in the absence of other specific guidance, the Department of Transportation shall publish its work plans in the 10-year period from 2016 to 2026 based upon the assumption that General Fund general obligation bonding in an amount averaging \$95,000,000 per year will be provided for highway and bridge and other multimodal purposes. This section and any planning undertaken pursuant to this section cannot and may not bind future Legislatures and does not authorize the issuance of any debt. Debt may be issued only in accordance with applicable authorizing law. The department shall adjust its work plans to reflect actual bonding levels.

SUMMARY

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$190,000,000, will be used for reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities or equipment related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, aviation, freight and passenger railroads, transit and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, matching an estimated \$290,000,000 in federal and other funds.