

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1140

S.P. 471

In Senate, March 18, 2025

**An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Strengthen the
Resilience and Growth of Maine's Agricultural Economy**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren and
Senators: BLACK of Franklin, BRENNER of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec,
Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, HEPLER of Woolwich.

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 \$45,000,000 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
15 may negotiate the sale of the bonds by direction of the Governor, but no bond may be
16 loaned, pledged or hypothecated on behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of the
17 bonds, which must be held by the Treasurer of State and paid by the Treasurer of State
18 upon warrants drawn by the State Controller, are appropriated solely for the purposes set
19 forth in this Act. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the project
20 in this Act lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of
21 general obligation bonds.

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

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

29 **MAINE AGRICULTURE, FOOD SYSTEM AND FOREST PRODUCTS**
30 **INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

31 **Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund**

32 Provides funds to strengthen the State's agricultural, food and forest products economy
33 and expand infrastructure investments in the agricultural, food and forest products
34 economy pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 320-A, with 2/3 of the
35 total supporting agricultural products and food producers and processors and 1/3 of the
36 total supporting forest products producers and processors.

37 Total \$35,000,000

38 **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

39 **Maine Milk Commission**

40 Provides funds to support the State's dairy sector.

41 Total \$5,000,000

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SUMMARY

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$45,000,000, will be used to strengthen and expand infrastructure investments in the State's agricultural, food and forest products economy; to support the State's dairy sector; to protect working farmland; and for farmer disaster relief.