LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 4, 2024 to March 21, 2025

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
March 25, 2025 to June 25, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 20, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
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PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2025

CHAPTER 2

H.P. 193 - L.D. 293

An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Boothbay Region Water District

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

Sec. 1. P&SL 2001, c. 15, §6 is amended to read:

Sec. 6. Borrowing. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 6412, subsections 1 and 2 and section 6413, the district, in order to accomplish the purpose of this Act, by vote of its board of trustees and without district vote, is authorized to borrow money, including temporary borrowing, for the purposes of acquisition and renovation of the Boothbay Harbor Water System and the East Boothbay Water District system, of renewing and refunding the indebtedness of water-related notes or bonds of the Town of Boothbay Harbor and the East Boothbay Water District, of paying necessary expenses and liabilities incurred under this Act, and of acquiring properties; paying damages; laying pipes, mains, sewers, drains and conduits; purchasing, constructing, maintaining and operating a water system; and making renewals, additions, extensions and improvements to that system, and is authorized to issue, from time to time, bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the district in such amount or amounts, bearing interest at such rate or rates and having such terms and provisions as the trustees determine. In the case of a vote by the trustees after acquisition and renovation of the Boothbay Harbor Water System and the East Boothbay Water District system to authorize bonds or notes to pay for the acquisition of property, the cost of a water system or part of a water system, renewals or additions or for other improvements in the nature of capital costs, the estimated cost of which singly or in the aggregate included in any one financing is $500,000 or more, but not for renewing or refunding existing indebtedness or to pay for maintenance, repairs or current expenses, notice of the proposed debt and of the general purpose or purposes for which it was authorized must be given by the district by publication at least once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the towns of Boothbay Harbor and Boothbay. The total indebtedness outstanding of the district may not exceed the sum of ~~$12,000,000~~ $19,000,000 at any one time or such other amount as may be established pursuant to this section.

Notwithstanding the limitation on total indebtedness established in this section, the trustees of the district may propose a different debt limit and submit that debt limit for districtwide approval in a referendum held in accordance with this section. The referendum must be called, advertised and conducted according to the law relating to municipal elections, except that the registrar of voters is not required to prepare nor the clerk to post a new list of voters. For the purpose of registering voters, the registrar of voters must be in session on the regular workday preceding the election. The question presented must conform to the following form:

"Do you favor changing the debt limit of the Boothbay Region Water District from (insert current debt limit) to (insert proposed debt limit)?"

The voters shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed against the word "Yes" or "No" their opinion on the question.

The results must be declared by the trustees and entered upon the district's records. Due certificate of the results must be filed by the clerk with the Secretary of State.

A debt limit proposal becomes effective upon its acceptance by a majority of the legal voters within the district voting at the referendum. Failure of approval by the majority of voters voting at the referendum does not prevent subsequent referenda from being held for the same purpose. The costs of referenda are borne by the district.

The total indebtedness of the district at any one time outstanding may not exceed the sum approved by referendum.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 3

S.P. 293 - L.D. 678

An Act to Provide for the 2025 and 2026 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 363 and Private and Special Law 2023, chapter 18 make a partial allocation of the state ceiling on private activity bonds to some issuers for calendar year 2025 but leave a portion of the state ceiling unallocated and do not provide sufficient allocations for certain types of private activity bonds that may require an allocation prior to the effective date of this Act if it is not enacted on an emergency basis; and

Whereas, if these bond issues must be delayed due to the lack of available state ceiling, the rates and terms under which these bonds may be issued may be adversely affected, resulting in increased costs to beneficiaries or even unavailability of financing for certain projects; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Allocation to Treasurer of State. The $5,000,000 of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2025 previously allocated to the Treasurer of State remains allocated to the Treasurer of State to be used or reallocated in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 363, subsection 5 for calendar year 2025. Five million dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2026 is allocated to the Treasurer of State to be used or reallocated in accordance with Title 10, section 363, subsection 5.

Sec. 2. Allocation to Finance Authority of Maine, including as successor to Maine Educational Loan Authority. The $195,000,000 of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2025 previously allocated to the Finance Authority of Maine, including as successor to the Maine Educational Loan Authority, remains allocated to the Finance Authority of Maine to be used or reallocated in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 363, subsections 6 and 8 for calendar year 2025. An additional $75,000,000 of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2025 previously unallocated is allocated to the Finance Authority of Maine to be used or reallocated in accordance with Title 10, section 363, subsections 6 and 8 for calendar year 2025. Two hundred thirty-five million dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2026 is allocated to the Finance Authority of Maine to be used or reallocated in accordance with Title 10, section 363, subsections 6 and 8.

Sec. 3. Allocation to Maine Municipal Bond Bank. The $10,000,000 of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2025 previously allocated to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank remains allocated to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to be used or reallocated in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 363, subsection 7 for calendar year 2025. Ten million dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2026 is allocated to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to be used or reallocated in accordance with Title 10, section 363, subsection 7.

Sec. 4. Allocation to Maine State Housing Authority. The $100,000,000 of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2025 previously allocated to the Maine State Housing Authority remains allocated to the Maine State Housing Authority to be used or reallocated in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 363, subsection 4 for calendar year 2025. One hundred million dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2026 is allocated to the Maine State Housing Authority to be used or reallocated in accordance with Title 10, section 363, subsection 4.

Sec. 5. Unallocated state ceiling. Three million seven hundred eighty thousand dollars of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2025 is unallocated and must be reserved for future allocation in accordance with applicable laws. Thirty-eight million seven hundred eighty thousand dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2026 is unallocated and must be reserved for future allocation in accordance with applicable laws.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 25, 2025.

CHAPTER 4

H.P. 787 - L.D. 1182

An Act to Grant the Rockland Port District an Increase in Its Borrowing Capacity and Include Sustainable Aquaculture and Marine Industries in Its Charter

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

Sec. 1. P&SL 1951, c. 108, §1, as amended by P&SL 1957, c. 78, §1, is further amended to read:

Sec. 1. Rockland Port District, incorporated. The inhabitants of and the territory within the city of Rockland, in the county of Knox, are hereby created a body politic and corporate under the name of "Rockland Port District" for the purpose of purchasing, maintaining and operating within said district wharves, landing places and all other appurtenances necessary for the operation of an adequate passenger and freight transportation service by water <u>and of sustainable aquaculture and marine industries</u>.

Sec. 2. P&SL 1951, c. 108, §4, as amended by P&SL 2003, c. 7, §1, is further amended to read:

Sec. 4. How financed. To procure funds for the purposes of this act, and for such other expenses as may be necessary to carry out said purposes, the said district, by its trustees, is hereby authorized from time to time to borrow money and to issue its bonds or notes therefor, but ~~shall~~ <u>may</u> not incur a total indebtedness at any one time outstanding exceeding the sum of ~~$600,000~~