

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2026 to APRIL 29, 2026

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 29, 2026

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2026

Whereas, the district needs an immediate increase in its borrowing authority in order to timely schedule the needed improvements; 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. P&SL 1977, c. 99, §12, as repealed and replaced by P&SL 2001, c. 21, §5, is amended to read:

Sec. 12. Debt limit. For accomplishing the purposes of this Act, and for any other expenses that may be necessary for the carrying out of those purposes, the district, through its trustees, is authorized to borrow money temporarily and to issue for the money its negotiable notes; and for the purpose of renewing and refunding the indebtedness created, of paying any necessary expenses and liabilities incurred under the provisions of this Act, including organizational and other necessary expenses and liabilities, whether incurred by the district or the municipality, the district being authorized to reimburse the municipality for any such expenses incurred by it, and in acquiring properties, paying damages, laying pipes, mains, aqueducts and conduits, constructing, maintaining and operating a water plant or system and making renewals, additions, extensions and improvements to the same, and to cover interest payments during the period of construction, the district, through its trustees, is also authorized to issue, from time to time, bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the district in one series or in separate series and to make subsequent renewals of the bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness, the amount or amounts, not exceeding the sum of \$1,500,000 \$4,000,000 outstanding at any one time, bearing interest at such rate or rates, and having such terms and provisions as the trustees determine; except that, in the case of a vote by the trustees to authorize bonds or notes to pay for the acquisition of property, for the cost of a water system or part of a water system, for renewal 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 \$30,000 or more, or for renewing or refunding existing indebtedness, notice of the proposed debt and of the general purpose or purposes for which it was authorized must be given by the clerk by publication at least once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of Vinalhaven.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the district, through its trustees, may issue bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness in amounts exceeding \$1,500,000 \$4,000,000 at any one time if a greater debt limit is established by referendum in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A,

section 6413. The district may not have outstanding at any one time bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness in amounts exceeding any debt limit established by referendum in accordance with Title 35-A, section 6413.

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

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 18

H.P. 1426 - L.D. 2111

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District

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

Sec. 1. P&SL 1953, c. 156, §3, as repealed and replaced by P&SL 2023, c. 12, §1, is amended to read:

Sec. 3. Board of trustees; district school committee. Except as provided by this Act, the board of trustees and district school committee have the duties and authority pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 105. The board of trustees ~~may~~ shall act as a building and facilities governing committee and has authority over capital expenditures and the district's capital reserve fund, including authority in consultation with the district school committee over the budget for maintaining, repairing, replacing and improving the community school district's buildings and other facilities and over the district's capital reserve funds for non-instructional capital purchases. The community school district may vote in accordance with Title 20-A, section 1651, subsection 4 to have the district school committee perform the duties of the board of trustees. The board of trustees and the district school committee shall have distinct areas of responsibility or authority as outlined in this Act and in Title 20-A, chapter 105. If issues arise involving overlapping responsibilities, the board of trustees and district school committee shall create joint bylaws or procedures as necessary to further assist them in understanding and executing their duties and responsibilities to the community school district.

Sec. 2. P&SL 1953, c. 156, §6, as repealed and replaced by P&SL 2023, c. 12, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Sec. 6. Budget approval. The board of trustees shall prepare the revenues and expenditures for the capital portion of the budget in accordance with section 3. The district school committee shall prepare the revenues and expenditures for the operating portion of the budget. The district school committee shall integrate the

capital and operating portions of the budget into cost centers in accordance with the cost center summary budget format and shall submit the budget to the budget meeting for the budget validation referendum procedure under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 105, subchapter 3. The board of trustees may prepare other articles related to capital needs, such as capital reserve fund articles, for the budget meeting. The district school committee shall include these articles in the warrant for the budget meeting.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 19

S.P. 875 - L.D. 2156

An Act to Provide for the 2026 and 2027 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds

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 2026 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 2026. Five million dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2027 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 \$235,000,000 of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2026 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 2026. An additional \$100,000,000 of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2026, of which \$47,625,000 was previously unallocated and \$52,375,000 was previously allocated to the Maine State Housing Authority, 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 2026. One hundred twenty-five million dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2027 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 2026 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 2026. Ten million dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2027 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 2026 previously allocated to the Maine State Housing Authority is reduced to \$47,625,000, and the remaining \$52,375,000 is reallocated to the Finance Authority of Maine, for use or reallocation in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 363, subsection 4 for calendar year 2026. Two hundred fifty million dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2027 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. Zero dollars of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2026 is unallocated. Seven million six hundred twenty-five thousand dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2027 is unallocated and must be reserved for future allocation in accordance with applicable laws.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 20

S.P. 921 - L.D. 2243

An Act Increasing the Debt Limit of the West Paris Water District

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 West Paris Water District is under an administrative order from the Maine drinking water program to replace a water storage tank by December 31, 2027; and

Whereas, the needed funds exceed the current borrowing capacity of the district; and

Whereas, the district needs an immediate increase in its borrowing authority in order to timely schedule the needed improvements; 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,