

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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August 26, 1943

Mrs. Bernice G. Buck
Office of Selectmen
Millinocket, Maine.

Dear Madam:-

I have your letter of August 24th. While the Attorney General cannot give you an official opinion, I can unofficially give you a reply.

However fine the project of erecting an Honor Roll to the boys in the service may be, nevertheless I believe that it cannot be counted as such a project that it can be paid for out of taxation or for which a bond issue could be put out without the express sanction of the legislature. R. S. Chapter 5, section 79, provides "for erecting . . . a memorial in memory of the soldiers and sailors who sacrificed their lives . . . in the world war." This refers to the war of 1917-18 and not to the present war. Previous to that particular provision we had the same section of the statute authorizing a memorial for soldiers and sailors who sacrificed their lives in the Civil War. Until the statute is properly amended, I feel that the town has no authority to raise money for the purpose you suggest from local taxation. If a bond or bonds of the town were given for that purpose, even though they might be sanctioned by a vote of the town at a meeting properly held, I believe that the bond or bonds would not be valid.

Very truly yours,

Frank I. Cowan
Attorney General

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