

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

VF  
c.1

STATE LAW LIBRARY  
AUGUSTA, MAINE

ELECTIONS - 1996 (June)

MAINE CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE  
REFERENDUM ELECTION

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

In Accordance with the Act Passed by the  
117th Legislature at the First Regular Session



Dear Fellow Citizen,

All eligible Maine residents may vote in the referendum election on June 11, 1996. The information in this booklet is intended to help you learn about the issue so that you can make your own, well-informed decision about how to vote.

Referendum elections are an important part of the heritage of public participation in Maine, so I hope you will help keep our democracy strong by voting. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt said:

"Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and Senators and Congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country."

For information about how or where you vote, you may contact your local municipal clerk or call Maine's Division of Elections at 287-4186.

Now, this booklet contains:

- \* The referendum question.
- \* A summary of the intent and content of the legislation.
- \* An explanation of the significance of a "yes" or "no" vote.
- \* An analysis of the debt service on the bond issue.

The Department of the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer and the Attorney General have worked together to prepare this booklet for you. We hope you find it helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Diamond".

Bill Diamond  
Secretary of State

---

Question 1: Bond Issue

"Do you favor a \$4,905,316 bond issue for a statewide library information system?"

---

STATE OF MAINE

Chapter 475

Public Laws of 1995

"An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Connect  
Libraries and Communities Electronically"

**Preamble.** Two thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in accordance with the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 14, to authorize the issuance of bonds on behalf of the State of Maine to provide funds for a statewide library information system.

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 27 MRSA §39, as amended by PL 1989, c. 700, Pt. A, §109, is further amended to read:

§39. Statewide Library Information System

1. **Statement of policy.** The Legislature declares that it is the policy of the State that cooperation among Maine libraries of all types should be fostered and encouraged. The sharing of library holdings and of library-developed tools for obtaining electronic information from networked resources enriches the economic, educational and cultural life of each Maine community. Citizen access to materials purchased with public dollars in an era of widespread access to electronic information networks requires that materials be identifiable by title and physical location. It is in the public interest that the Maine State Library promote and assist access by recording the holdings of Maine libraries in a form accessible by modern information technology; information about resources available through Maine libraries and maintaining them in an always-current, immediately accessible electronic form readily available to every citizen through a variety of telephone and network connections. In this way, the educational and informational resources of the State will be available to every citizen.

2. **Legislative intent.** Recognizing the value of broad citizen access to library materials and recognizing that automated records are essential to the use of technology information, the State assigns to the Maine State Library the responsibility of collecting the holding records of libraries throughout Maine and making them accessible in machine readable form providing electronic access to information resources including: the creation of an online catalog of the holdings of libraries and other governmental units throughout the State; the provision of online indexing, full text and document delivery of newspaper, periodical and journal articles; the maintenance of a gateway to the Internet and its vast array of electronic resources; the coordination of an effective and efficient means of transporting physical materials among libraries; and the development of a program to teach citizens of the State to successfully locate, retrieve and use the information contained within various computer systems. It is the State's intent that these records be shared with any citizen or library on request. It is the intent of the Legislature to provide the Maine State Library with the resources necessary to carry out this section.

**Sec. A-2. Application; contingent on bond issue.** This Part takes effect only if the bond issue submitted pursuant to Part B of this Act is approved by the voters of this State.

## **PART B**

**Sec. B-1. Authorization of bonds to provide for a statewide library information system.** The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on behalf of the State in an amount not exceeding \$4,905,316 to raise funds for a statewide library information system as authorized by section 6. The bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for a period longer than 5 years from the date of the original issue of the bonds. At the discretion of the Treasurer of State, with the approval of the Governor, any issuance of bonds may contain a call feature.

**Sec. B-2. Records of bonds issued to be kept by the Treasurer of State.** The Treasurer of State shall keep an account of each bond showing the number of the bond, the name of the successful bidder to whom sold, the amount received for the bond, the date of sale and the date when payable.

**Sec. B-3. Sale; how negotiated; proceeds appropriated.** The Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale of the bonds by direction of the Governor, but no bond may be loaned, pledged or hypothecated on behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of the bonds, which must be held by the Treasurer of State and paid by the Treasurer of State upon warrants drawn by the State Controller, are appropriated solely for the purposes set forth in this Part. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the project in section 6 lapse to the debt service account established for the retirement of these bonds.

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

**Sec. B-5. Disbursement of bond proceeds.** The proceeds of the bonds must be expended as set out in section 6 under the direction and supervision of the Maine State Library.

**Sec. B-6. Allocations from General Fund bond issue; statewide library information system.** The proceeds of the sale of bonds must be expended as designated in the following schedule.

1995-96

### **MAINE STATE LIBRARY**

Statewide Library Information System

\$4,905,316

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

**Sec. B-8. Appropriation balances at year end.** At the end of each fiscal year, all unencumbered appropriation balances representing state money carry forward. Bond proceeds that have not been expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the bonds lapse to General Fund debt service.

**Sec. B-9. Bonds authorized but not issued.** Any bonds authorized but not issued, or for which bond anticipation notes are not issued within 5 years of ratification of this Part, are deauthorized and may not be issued; except that the Legislature may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period, extend the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds or bond anticipation notes for an additional amount of time not to exceed 5 years.

**Sec. B-10. Referendum for ratification; submission at primary election; form of question; effective date.** This Part must be submitted to the legal voters of the State of Maine at the June 1996 primary election following passage of this Part. The municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Part by voting on the following question:

"Do you favor a \$4,905,316 bond issue for a statewide library information system?"

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

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

Approved July 3, 1995

#### **Intent and Content**

This Act would authorize the State to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4,905,316 to raise funds for a statewide library information system. The bonds would run for a period of not longer than 5 years from the date of issue and would be backed by the full faith and credit of the State.

The proceeds of the sale of the bonds would be expended by the Maine State Library for the development of a statewide library information system.

If approved, the bond authorization would take effect 30 days after the Governor's proclamation of the vote.

A statement of the Treasurer describing the financial considerations of this bond issue is published together with this statement.

A "YES" vote approves the authorization of a \$4,905,316 bond issue for the development of a statewide library information system.

A "NO" vote disapproves the bond issue.

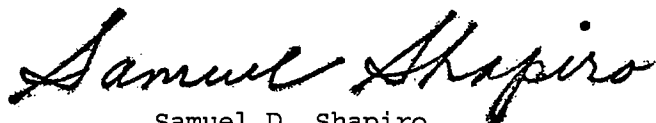
Total Estimated Debt Service of \$5,589,608 of which Principal is \$4,905,316, Estimated Interest at 4.65% over 5 years is \$684,292.

### Treasurer's Statement

The issuing of bonds by the State of Maine is the way in which the State borrows money for purposes designated in the legislation authorizing the issue. The following is a summary of the bonded indebtedness of the State of Maine as of December 31, 1995.

Bonds Outstanding and Unpaid to Mature Through 2008	Highway fund	\$126,500,000
	General fund	<u>\$337,265,000</u>
	Total	<u>\$463,765,000</u>
Interest to be Repaid on Bonds Issued	Highway fund	\$ 33,002,284
	General fund	<u>\$ 79,686,625</u>
	Total	<u>\$112,688,909</u>
Total to be Repaid on Bonds Issued		<u>\$576,453,909</u>
Additional Bonds Authorized But Not Yet Issued		\$128,700,600
Limit of Contingent Bonds Liability Authorized by Constitution and Laws But Unissued		<u>\$ 99,000,000</u>
Total Bonds Authorized But Unissued		<u>\$227,700,600</u>
Total Additional Bonds to be Authorized if Ratified by Voters		\$ 4,905,316
Potential New Estimate of Interest		\$ 684,292

When money is borrowed by issuing bonds, the State must repay not only the principal amount of the bonds but interest on the amount as well. The amount of interest to be paid will vary depending upon the rate of interest and the years of maturity at the time of issuance; an estimate of the total interest that may reasonably be expected to be paid on the issues submitted herewith for ratification is \$684,292 if the bonds are issued for the full statutory debt retirement period. The total principal and interest to be repaid over the life of the bonds on the issues submitted herewith if ratified is thus estimated to be \$5,589,608. The amount that must be paid in the present fiscal year (July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1996) for debt already outstanding is \$77,070,000 in principal and \$26,978,950 in interest, a total of \$104,048,950.



Samuel D. Shapiro  
Treasurer of State