

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE - HUNDRETH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 882

S. P. 281

In Senate, January 26, 1961

Referred to Committee on Election Laws. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Edgar of Hancock.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-ONE

AN ACT to Authorize a Bond Issue for Purchase of Voting Machines for Resale to Municipalities.

Preamble. Two-thirds of both houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary to provide for a bond issue for purchase of voting machines for resale to municipalities.

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

Sec. 1. Issue of bonds to provide for purchase of voting machines for resale to municipalities. The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction of the Governor and Council, to issue from time to time serial coupon bonds in the name and behalf of the State to an amount not exceeding \$1,526,000 for the purpose of raising funds to purchase voting machines for resale to municipalities as provided in section 5. Said bonds shall be deemed a pledge of the faith and credit of the State. Said bonds shall not run for a longer period than 20 years from the date of the original issue thereof.

Sec. 2. Records of bonds issued to be kept by State Auditor and Treasurer. The State Auditor shall keep an account of such bonds, showing the number and amount of each, the date of countersigning, the date when payable and the date of delivery thereof to the Treasurer of State, who shall keep an account of each bond, showing the number thereof, the name of the person to whom sold, the amount received for the same, the date of sale and the date when payable.

Sec. 3. Sale, how negotiated; proceeds appropriated. The Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale of such bonds by direction of the Governor and Council; but no such bond shall be loaned, pledged or hypothecated in behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sales of such bonds, which shall be held by

the Treasurer of State and paid by him upon warrants drawn by the Governor and Council, are appropriated to be used solely for the purposes set forth in this act. Any balance unexpended shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward from year to year to be used only for the purposes set forth herein.

Sec. 4. Interest and debt retirement. Interest due or accruing upon any bonds issued under this act and all sums coming due for payment of bonds at maturity shall be paid by the Treasurer of State from any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds. The proceeds of such bonds shall be expended under the direction and supervision of the State Purchasing Agent. The State Purchasing Agent shall purchase voting machines, conforming to chapter 5-A of the Revised Statutes, and shall sell them to the municipalities of the State which request them on a time-payment plan not to exceed 20 years. Municipalities are authorized to purchase the voting machines.

The voting machines shall be sold to the municipalities at cost plus freight and handling charges with interest at the same rate as paid by the State for the bonds issued under this act.

Sec. 6. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall not become effective unless and until the people of the State of Maine shall have ratified the issuance of bonds as set forth in this act.

Sec. 7. Referendum ratification. The aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations of this State are hereby empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of Senators and Representatives, at the next general or special state-wide election, to give in their votes upon the acceptance or rejection of this act, and the question shall be:

“Shall a bond issue be ratified for the purposes set forth in ‘An Act to Authorize a Bond Issue for Purchase of Voting Machines for Resale to Municipalities,’ passed by the 100th Legislature?”

The inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed against the words “Yes” and “No” their opinion of the same. The ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings, and return made to the office of the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for Governor and Members of the Legislature, and the Governor and Council shall count the same and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of said act, the Governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the act shall thereupon become effective in 30 days after the date of said proclamation.

Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing act, accompanied by a copy thereof.