

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 164

H. P. 120

House of Representatives, January 10, 1963

Referred to the Committee on Municipal Affairs, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Berman of Houlton.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-THREE

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**AN ACT Amending the Charter of the Town of Houlton School District.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, the school buildings which house the elementary and secondary schools in the Town of Houlton are inadequate and unsafe; and

Whereas, it is imperative that action be taken at the earliest possible moment to relieve these conditions; and

Whereas, to remedy these conditions construction of new school buildings and construction of addition to existing school buildings must be commenced immediately; 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. & S. L., 1947, c. 81, § 1, amended.** Section 1 of chapter 81 of the private and special laws of 1947 is amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 1. Incorporation; name; purposes.** Subject to the provisions of sections 7 and 9 hereof, the inhabitants of and the territory within the Town of Houlton are hereby created a body politic and corporate under the name of "Town of Houlton School District" for the purpose of acquiring property within the said town for school and related athletic and recreational purposes; for the purpose of erecting, enlarging, repairing, equipping and maintaining on said

property a school building or school buildings and related athletic and recreational facilities; for the purpose of maintaining elementary and secondary schools; for the purpose of completing, grading, furnishing, rebuilding, renovating and otherwise bettering the condition of **said building or buildings any, or all, buildings within said town used for school purposes or which may hereafter be used for school purposes**; for the purpose of leasing or letting any property of said district to said town; for the purpose of receiving, accepting and holding gifts, grants or devises of property real, personal or mixed to be used for school and related athletic and recreational purposes; all for the benefit of the inhabitants of said town.'

**Sec. 2. P. & S. L., 1947, c. 81, § 4, amended.** Section 4 of chapter 81 of the private and special laws of 1947 is amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 4. How financed.** To procure funds for the purpose of this act, and for such other expenses as may be necessary to carry out said purposes, the said district is hereby authorized from time to time to borrow money and to issue its bonds and notes therefor, but shall not incur a total indebtedness exceeding the sum of ~~\$500,000~~ **\$1,250,000** at any one time outstanding. Each bond and note shall have inscribed upon its face the words "Town of Houlton School District", shall bear interest at such rates as the trustees shall determine, payable semi-annually, and shall be subject to such other provisions as the trustees shall determine. Said bonds and notes may be issued to mature serially or made to run for such periods as said trustees may determine, but none of which shall run for a longer period than 30 years from the date of original issue thereof. All bonds and notes issued by said district shall be signed by the treasurer and countersigned by the president of said district, and if coupon bonds be issued, each coupon shall be attested by the facsimile signatures of the president and treasurer printed thereon. All bonds and notes issued by said district ~~shall~~ **may** be callable ~~at~~ **on** any interest date **with or without premium**. Said bonds and notes shall be legal obligations of said district which is hereby declared to be a quasi-municipal corporation within the meaning of section ~~132~~ **23** of chapter ~~49~~ **90-A** of the Revised Statutes **of 1954, as amended**, and all the provisions of said section shall be applicable thereto. The said bonds and notes shall be legal investments for trust companies and savings banks. The said district is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into such an agreement with the Federal Government, or any agency thereof or any corporation or board authorized by the Federal Government to loan money or otherwise assist in the financing of such projects as this school district is authorized to carry out, as may be necessary or desirable to accomplish the purposes of this act.'

**Sec. 3. Local referendum; effective date; certificate to Secretary of State.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved, only for the purpose of permitting its submission to the legal voters of the district present and voting at a special meeting called and held for the purpose or at an annual town meeting of the Town of Houlton. Such special meeting or annual meeting shall be held not later than 12 months after approval of this act. In the event a special meeting is called for the purpose, it shall be called, advertised and conducted according to the law relating to municipal elections; provided, however, the board of registration in said Town of Houlton

shall not be required to prepare for posting, nor the town clerk to post, a new list of voters, and for the purpose of registration of voters, said board shall be in session for 3 secular days next preceding such special meeting, the first and second days thereof to be devoted to the registration of voters, the 3rd day to enable the board to verify the correctness of said list and to complete and to close up their records of said sessions. The town clerk shall prepare the required ballots on which he shall reduce the subject matter of this act to the following question :

“Shall the Act to Amend the Charter of the Town of Houlton School District, passed by the 101st Legislature, be accepted?”

The voters shall indicate by a cross or check mark against the words “Yes” or “No” their opinion of the same.

This act shall take complete effect for all purposes immediately upon its acceptance by a majority of the legal voters resident in said district voting thereon at any such election ; provided that the total number of votes cast for and against acceptance of this act at said election equals or exceeds 10% of the total votes for all candidates for Governor cast in said town at the next previous gubernatorial election. If, at the first such special election, the total number of votes cast for and against acceptance of this act is less than 10% of the total vote for all candidates for Governor cast in said town at the next previous gubernatorial election, the selectmen may call not more than 2 such special elections to be held within the time described above.

The result of such election shall be declared by the selectmen of the Town of Houlton, and due certificate thereof shall be filed by the town clerk with the Secretary of State.