

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 984

S. P. 371

In Senate, February 21, 1967

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

JERROLD B. SPEERS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Johnson of Somerset.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Authorize Bond Issue in Amount of One Million One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars for Construction at Pineland Hospital and Training Center and of Regional Care Facilities for the Severely Mentally Retarded at Bangor.

Preamble. Two-thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in accordance with Section 14 of Article IX of the Constitution to authorize the issuance of bonds on behalf of the State of Maine for construction at Pineland Hospital and Training Center and of Regional Care Facilities for the Severely Mentally Retarded at Bangor.

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

Sec. 1. Issue of bonds to provide for construction. 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 \$1,150,000 for the purpose of raising funds to provide for such construction as authorized by section 6. 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. The Treasurer of State is authorized to invest the proceeds of the sale of the bonds during the period when the proceeds are not needed for the purposes set forth in this Act and the interest therefrom shall be paid into the General Fund. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the projects listed in section 6 shall lapse to the debt service account established for the retirement of these bonds.

Sec. 4. Interest and debt retirement. Interest due or accruing upon any bonds issued under the provisions of 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 Director of the Bureau of Public Improvements.

Sec. 6. Allocations from General Fund Bond issue.

Department	1967-68
MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF	
Pineland Hospital and Training Center	\$ 350,000
Construction of Pediatric Unit addition to Benda Hospital for Retarded Children under the Age of 6.	
Construction of Pediatric Unit addition to Benda Hospital Retarded Persons at Bangor on state-owned property controlled by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections	800,000
Total	\$1,150,000

Sec. 7. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue. Sections 1 to 6 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. 8. Referendum for 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 the foregoing Act, and the question shall be:

“Shall a bond issue be ratified for the purposes set forth in ‘An Act to Authorize Bond Issue in Amount of One Million One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars for Construction at Pineland Hospital and Training Center

and of Regional Care Facilities for the Severely Mentally Retarded at Bangor,' passed by the 103rd Legislature?"

The inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed within a square upon their ballots their opinion of the same, those in favor of ratification voting "Yes" and those opposed to ratification voting "No" and 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.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

As the result of extensive consideration of the problem of caring for the mentally retarded there is agreement on the immediate need for diagnostic and treatment services for mentally retarded children below age 6 and that this in-patient service should be located at Pineland Hospital and Training Center. The present feasible location for this nursery is as a second floor addition to the hospital building at Pineland Hospital and Training Center. It is not possible to provide service to infants and very young children without a separate nursery unit.

Additionally the demand for prolonged state institutional care of the severely retarded is growing. Pineland Hospital and Training Center presently serves some 750 severely retarded and would greatly compromise its excellent diagnostic and training programs to expand this service. Regional facilities have been recommended by interested groups including the Interdepartmental Board on Mental Retardation, the Maine Committee on Problems of the Mentally Retarded and others. To provide this service at the lowest possible cost, the needed buildings will be constructed on available land at the site of the Bangor State Hospital. Physically separated, the unit would be under separate administration under the department but relying on the state hospital to provide medical and other services such as maintenance, laundry, etc. The unit would accept only those retarded who have shown an inability to improve from further treatment or training and who require continued and extensive personal care and supervision.

Subsequently the unit will require 51 permanent employees and an appropriation of \$320,000 annually for operation. These sums are not presently requested since construction will not be completed during this biennium.