

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1244

S. P. 430

In Senate, March 10, 1971

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Wyman of Washington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT to Authorize Bond Issue in the Amount of \$750,000 for Student Housing at Washington County Vocational-Technical Institute at Calais.

Preamble. Two-thirds of both Houses of 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 to provide much needed student housing at Washington County Vocational-Technical Institute.

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

Sec. 1. Issue of bonds to provide much needed student housing at Washington County Vocational-Technical Institute, Calais, Maine. 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 \$750,000 for the purpose of raising funds to provide for such capital improvements, construction, renovations, equipment and furnishings 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. Any issuance of bonds may contain a call feature at the discretion of the Treasurer of State with the approval of the Governor and Council.

Sec. 2. Records of bonds issued to be kept by State Auditor and Treasurer of State. The State Auditor shall keep an account of such bonds, showing the number and amount of each, 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 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 this Act and all sums coming due for payment of bonds at maturity shall be paid by the Treasurer of State.

Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds. The proceeds of such bonds shall be expended under the direction and supervision of the Director of Public Improvements.

Sec. 6. Allocations from General Fund Bond Issue.

1971-72

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Washington County Vocational-Technical Institute
Student Housing

\$750,000

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 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 regular 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 An Act to Authorize Bond Issue in the Amount of \$750,000 for Student Housing at Washington County Vocational-Technical Institute at Calais, as passed by the 105th Legislature, be approved?”

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 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 review 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 FACT

By Legislative Act, followed by the approval of the voters, the 103rd Legislature created the Washington County Vocational-Technical Institute. At this time \$650,000 was authorized for the construction of an administration-classroom-shop facility. Since that time additional state moneys combined with federal moneys, bring the present investment to nearly \$1,000,000.

Students presently enrolled have had great difficulty in finding suitable quarters. Housing facilities available carry prices prohibitive for students. Already there are students who are unable to attend due to lack of housing. Therefore, the availability and adequacy of housing for the anticipated enrollment for 1971 is critical to the point where many students will be unable to attend.

By creating the Vocational Technical-Institute, it was the intention of the people and the Legislature to make these facilities available to the students of Washington County and to train them for positions within existing industries, such as the Georgia Pacific Company at Woodland and many other small industries throughout the county. Unless the request for student housing is granted, existing industries as well as economic development will suffer from the unavailability of trained personnel. In addition to this, the State of Maine will have invested nearly \$1,000,000 and will be losing the purpose of this investment; namely, the opportunity to offer an adequate education to many of the young people for whom it was intended.

We have created the facility for education and now we must create the opportunity to attend this facility.