

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 763

S. P. 266

In Senate, February 12, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Shute of Franklin.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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**AN ACT to Authorize Bond Issue in the Amount of \$1,500,000 for a State  
Park in the Bigelow Mountain Area.**

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**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 for capital improvements, construction, renovations, equipment and furnishings in the area of Conservation and Parks.

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

**Sec. 1. Issue of bonds to provide for State Park around Bigelow Mountain.** 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 \$1,500,000 for the purpose of raising funds to provide for a State Park 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.** 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.

**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 Public Improvements.

**Sec. 6. Allocations from General Fund Bond Issue.**

#### STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

State Park in the Bigelow Mountain Area	\$1,500,000
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Its boundaries would be as follows: On the north by Flagstaff Lake; on the west by the Franklin-Somerset County line and southerly to a buffer zone along State Highway 27. Then the southern boundary will follow Stratton Brook easterly to Stratton Brook Pond. Then it will follow easterly along the Somerset-Franklin County line to the so-called Bog Brook Road. Then it will follow the Bog Brook Road northerly until it again touches Flagstaff Lake, south shore.

**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 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 the State provide for a State Park in the Bigelow Mountain Area by issuing bonds in the amount of \$1,500,000?”

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 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.

#### FISCAL NOTE

The funds for purchase of the Park lands shall come from general issue revenue bonds. This will require approval by both the Legislature and by a referendum vote by the People of the State of Maine.

The estimate of total acquisition costs is:

Land Costs:	\$2,600,000
1st phase development	400,000 (approx.)
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	\$3,000,000

The federal share would be 50% of costs or \$1,500,000 when it is available. This would mean the State bond issue would be \$1,500,000.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

It is proposed that the people of Maine through its Department of Parks and Recreation, purchase approximately 37,000 acres of land around Bigelow Mountain for a general recreation State Park.

This park would serve a wide variety of recreation needs for many years to come for northwestern Maine.

It would be established to meet the recreational needs of:

- A. **Hunters**, as the park will be managed by the Fish and Game Department for both small and large game hunting.
- B. **Family Camping**, a number of campgrounds will be established for this type of outdoor activity.
- C. **Climbing and Hiking**. The present trails system will be expanded to make this a major hiking area in northern New England.
- D. **Water-based recreation**. Although the fluctuation of Flagstaff Lake limits a full use of this recreation, extensive use, especially on the lower lake, can still be used for most types of water recreation.

**E. Snowmobile Trails.** This area is large enough to accommodate an extensive network of snowmobile trails.

Since the park would contain extensive timber lands, timber harvesting would be allowed under the supervision of the Forestry Department. Harvesting would be subordinate to recreational requirements of the park.

The land is largely wooded lands. Considerable lands have been recently lumbered over. There are a number of "Burn" areas near the shore of Flagstaff Lake and some areas near the 4,000 foot peaks are above treeline.

There are numerous small brooks and streams in the proposed area as well as a number of small beaver ponds.

The proposed Park would serve the long-range recreation interest of Maine people. Its concept would be on a three-zone usage.

1. **A Protection Zone** on all lands above 2,500-2,700 feet in which only limited forms of compatible recreation would be allowed.
2. **A Multiple-use Zone** in which all forms of recreation could be conducted as well as forest management and wildlife management.
3. **A Public Use Zone** in which the State may purchase only easements and allow certain nonconflicting private uses in this zone.

The approximate acreages in each zone would be:

<b>Protection Zone</b>	11,763 A.
<b>Multi-use Zone</b>	17,844 A.
<b>Public Use Zone</b>	7,414 A. (Approx.)