

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1537

S. P. 476

In Senate, March 21, 1973

On motion of Senator Berry of Cumberland, referred to the Committee on Public Lands. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Brennan of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

**AN ACT to Authorize Bond Issue in the Amount of \$3,000,000 for
Acquisition of Real Property for State Parks.**

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 to provide for acquisition of real property for the purpose of establishing additional state parks.

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

Sec. 1. Issue of bonds to provide for acquisition of real property for state parks. 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 \$3,000,000 for the purpose of raising funds to provide for such land acquisition as authorized by section 6. 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. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the acquisitions 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 Commissioner of Parks and Recreation.

Sec. 6. Allocations from general fund bond issue.

1. Acquisition of real property;
2. Necessary expenditure to prepare the real property thus acquired for use as public parks.

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 special or 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 the acquisition of real property for state parks by issuing bonds in the amount of \$3,000,000?”

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, 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 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

The purpose of this Act is to authorize a bond issue in the amount of \$3,000,000 for land acquisition for state parks to preserve more effectively some remainder of our natural heritage for the future use, enjoyment and spiritual well-being of Maine citizens and the out-of-state visitors who contribute substantially to the Maine economy.

It is essential we continue a systematic program of land acquisition for state parks as the need for recreation facilities available to the public grows and before the price of unspoiled land escalates beyond the ability of Maine people to meet the cost.