

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-560)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 477, L.D. 583, Bill, "AN ACT
Relating to Approving and Financing School Construction."

Amend the bill () in section 5, in that part designated
"§3471." subsection 2, by striking out all of paragraph A and
inserting in its place the following:

'A. The State Board of Education is authorized to approve
projects as long as no project approval will cause debt
service costs, as defined in section 3743, subsection 10,
paragraph A, to exceed \$30,000,000 in any subsequent
fiscal year.'

Further amend the bill in section 5 in that part designated
"§3471." subsection 2, by adding at the end of paragraph E the
following new paragraph:

'In an article submitted to the legislative body of any
administrative unit seeking a favorable vote on a
school construction project, it shall be clearly indicated /
that,
in addition to the 10% or 2 mills local share of the
total cost of the project, the entire operating costs
of the new project during its first year will be borne
by revenues raised by the local administrative unit.'

Further amend the bill in section 5 in that part designated "§3471." subsection 2, by inserting at the end the following:

'G. In order to provide the technical assistance required by the State Board of Education in assessing proposed school construction projects, the Bureau of Public Improvements is authorized to contract for services of a professional engineer whenever the bureau is not employing such personnel on a full-time basis.'

'H. In carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the State Board of Education shall approve only those projects which have been designed in accordance with rigorous standards for the conservation of energy.'

Further amend the bill in section 5 in that part designated "§3472." subsection 1, by striking out the first 2 sentences and inserting in their place the following:

'The unit's share of the total cost of each project shall be either 10% of the total cost or the equivalent of 2 mills multiplied by the unit's state valuation, whichever is less. The 2 mills shall be calculated on the state valuation in effect at the time the project is first approved by the State Board of Education.'

Statement of Fact

The purposes of this amendment are to:

1. Limit the state's commitment to school construction to a debt service level of \$30,000,000;
2. Require that local voters should be informed through an article that the local unit will be assuming a specific financial obligation if it votes to approve a school construction proposal;
3. Authorize the Bureau of Public Improvements to contract for the services of a professional engineer whenever necessary in order to assist the State Board of Education in assessing school construction project proposals;
4. Direct the State Board of Education to approve only those projects which conform to rigorous energy conservation standards; and
5. Require a 10% or 2 mill local effort as the local share of the total cost of any school construction project.

Reported by the Minority of the Committee on Education.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
6/9/77

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