

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1334

H. P. 1116

House of Representatives, March 29, 1977

On motion of Mr. Lynch of Livermore Falls, referred to Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Quinn of Gorham.

Cosponsor: Mr. Spencer of Standish.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Authorize a Bond Issue in the Amount of \$2,950,000, for a Fine Arts Classroom Building at the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham.

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 construction of a fine arts classroom building at the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham.

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

Sec. 1. Issue of self-liquidating bonds to provide for renovations for the University of Maine. The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction of the Governor, to issue from time to time serial coupon bonds in the name and behalf of the State to an amount not exceeding \$2,950,000, for the purpose of raising funds to provide for the construction of a fine arts classroom building authorized by section 8. These bonds shall be deemed a pledge of the faith and credit of the State. These bonds shall not run for a longer period than 20 years from the date of the original issue thereof. Any issuance of the bonds may contain a call feature at the discretion of the Treasurer of State with the approval of the Governor.

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; 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, are appropriated to be used solely for the purpose set forth in this Act. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the projects listed in section 8, 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.

Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds. The proceeds of such bonds shall be expended under the direction and supervision of the board of trustees of the university with the approval of the Bureau of Public Improvements.

Sec. 6. Other sources of funds. This Act shall not in any manner preclude the university or the Treasurer of State from accepting from any authorized agency of the Federal Government or other nonstate sources construction aid fund grants, debt service grant funds or other grants for the planning, construction, equipping or property acquisition for the projects provided for in this Act, or from entering into agreements with such agency or agencies respecting any such grants.

Sec. 7. Proceeds of bonds not available for other purposes; shall be kept separate from other funds. The proceeds of all bonds issued under the authority of this Act and the funds made available for interest and debt retirement thereunder shall at all times be kept distinct from all other moneys of the State and shall not be drawn upon or be available for any other purpose.

Sec. 8. University of Maine authorized to construct a fine arts classroom building at the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham. The University of Maine is authorized to plan, construct, furnish and equip a fine arts classroom and laboratory building at the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham not to exceed \$2,950,000. The University of Maine shall plan, construct, furnish and equip such a fine arts building and the funds shall be expended under the direction and supervision of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine.

Sec. 9. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue. Sections 1 to 8 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.

Statutory referendum procedure; form of question; effective date. This Act shall be submitted to the legal voters of the State of Maine at a special statewide election to be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following passage of this Act. The city aldermen, town selectmen and plantation assessors of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question :

“Shall the State construct a fine arts classroom building at the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham by issuing bonds in the amount of \$2,950,000, as passed by the First Regular Session of the 108th Legislature?”

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice by a cross of check mark placed within a corresponding square below the words “Yes” or “No.” The ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns, and, if it appears that a majority of the legal voters are in favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay, and the Act shall become effective 30 days after the date of the proclamation.

The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.

STATEMENT OF FACT

In 1956, the Gorham portion of what is now the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham was assigned the task of training teachers in primary and secondary education in fine arts. Regardless of this mission assigned over 20 years ago, there has never been any provision for the bricks and mortar necessary to properly implement such an educational resource. Training presently occurs in basements, vacant offices, abandoned gymnasiums and the like. This construction will not only permit centralization and economy in manpower and time, but will be an extremely valuable resource to the heavily populated area of southern Maine and a superb adjunct to the vocational and community programs that are increasing so rapidly.