

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1684**

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H. P. 1409

House of Representatives, April 13, 1977

Referred to Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro.  
Cosponsor: Mr. Pearson of Old Town.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Appropriate Money for Improvements to Airports and to  
Authorize General Fund Bond Issues in the Amount of \$1,200,000.**

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**Preamble.** Two-thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in accordance with the Constitution, Article IX, Section 14, to authorize the issuance of bonds on behalf of the State of Maine for the purpose of improving airports.

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

**Sec. 1. Bond Issue of \$1,200,000 authorized.** 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 \$1,200,000 payable serially at the State Treasury within 20 years from date of issue. Such bonds and coupons shall be of such denominations and form and upon such terms and conditions, not inconsistent herewith, as the Governor shall direct. The proceeds from the sale of said bonds shall be used for airport improvements as authorized by section 4. The said bonds shall be deemed a pledge of the faith and credit of the State. The said bonds shall be issued from time to time so as to meet the needs of the Airport Improvement Program. Said bonds when paid at maturity or otherwise retired shall not be reissued, but may be refunded on terms more favorable to the State than those in the original issue.

**Sec. 2. 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 from any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

**Sec. 3. Disbursement of bond proceeds.** The proceeds of such bonds shall be expended under the direction and supervision of the Department of Transportation.

**Sec. 4. Appropriations from General Fund bond issue.** The funds appropriated by this section for the following airports shall be expended for improvements at said airports:

Airport Improvements, Auburn-Lewiston	\$ 36,300
Airport Improvements, Augusta	65,050
Airport Improvements, Bangor	138,540
Airport Improvements, Bar Harbor	22,150
Airport Improvements, Belfast	1,500
Airport Improvements, Caribou	6,000
Airport Improvements, Dexter	4,000
Airport Improvements, Dover-Foxcroft	1,500
Airport Improvements, Fort Kent	3,000
Airport Improvements, Frenchville	16,000
Airport Improvements, Fryeburg	9,000
Airport Improvements, Islesboro	1,700
Airport Improvements, Jackman	2,000
Airport Improvements, Knox County	25,650
Airport Improvements, Norridgewock	5,500
Airport Improvements, Old Town	26,100
Airport Improvements, Pittsfield	5,500
Airport Improvements, Portage Lake	6,000
Airport Improvements, Portland	699,059
Airport Improvements, Presque Isle	48,933
Airport Improvements, Princeton	1,750
Airport Improvements, Rangeley	2,250
Airport Improvements, Sanford	5,000
Airport Improvements, Waterville	31,175
Airport Improvements, Wiscasset	7,583
Discretionary	28,760
Total Appropriations	\$1,200,000

The amounts listed after each airport are to be construed as guides and any one amount listed in the above schedule may be supplemented from amounts for any other airport for which matching funds are not raised or available as long as the total expenditures of state money do not exceed the total amount of the bond issue.

It is the intent of the Legislature that any of the above airports for which matching funds are required shall have such matching funds available before any state money is expended at said airport.

**Sec. 5. Appropriation balances at year end.** At the end of each fiscal year, all unencumbered appropriation balances representing state moneys shall carry forward from year to year. It is further provided that unencumbered appropriation balances remaining at June 30, 1985, shall go into a debt service account to pay interest or principal on the issued bonds.

**Sec. 6. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue.** Sections 1 to 4 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. 7. 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 statewide election, to give in their votes upon the acceptance or rejection of the foregoing Act, and the question shall be:

“Shall a bond issue be ratified for the purposes set forth in ‘An Act to Appropriate Money for Improvements to Airports and to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues in the Amount of \$1,200,000,’ as passed by the 108th Legislature?”

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 shall count 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

The purpose of this bill is to authorize a bond issue in the amount of \$1,200,000. It is intended that the funds be matched with local funds which will generally be used to obtain federal airport improvement grants. It is expected that these funds will be used throughout the State to create an airport improvement program totaling over \$10,000,000.

The program anticipates the federal funds that will be made available to the State of Maine for airport improvements through the fiscal year 1979. The projects included in the program will enhance the safety of the air transportation system in Maine by providing safety facilities and equipment and navigation aids for greater dependability and reliability within the airport system. The program also includes projects which will preserve the existing airport facilities.