

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document No. 2238

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H.P. 1688 House of Representatives, March 15, 1984  
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs is suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Kelleher of Bangor.  
Cosponsors: Senator Danton of York, Representative Paradis of Augusta and Representative Drinkwater of Belfast.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR

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AN ACT to Authorize a General Fund Bond  
Issue in the Amount of \$1,500,000 for  
Restoration and Preservation of Historic  
Structures.

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Preamble. Two thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in accordance with the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 14, to authorize the issuance of bonds on behalf of the State of Maine to provide for the restoration and preservation of historic structures.

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

Sec. 1. 27 MRSA §505, sub-§2, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. The director may administer a program of state financed grants for the stabilization and restoration of unique historic structures consistent with the following conditions.

1           (1) An applicant for a grant must be either  
2           governmental or nonprofit organization.

3           (2) The historic structure which is the  
4           subject of the grant application must be on  
5           the National Register of Historic Places as  
6           provided by the National Historic Preserva-  
7           tion Act of 1966 or have been nominated to  
8           the register by the commission.

9           (3) An applicant must provide assurance  
10          that public access to the structure will be  
11          reasonably provided with respect to admis-  
12          sion fees, visitation hours and physical ac-  
13          cessibility, while maintaining the histori-  
14          cal integrity of the structure.

15          (4) Applications must address to the satis-  
16          faction of the commission the applicant's  
17          organizational and financial capacity to  
18          provide long-term maintenance of that struc-  
19          ture which is the subject of the applica-  
20          tion.

21          (5) Grants shall not exceed 50% of the to-  
22          tal expense of the proposed project, except  
23          that grants to the State may be 100% of the  
24          total expense of the proposed project.

25          (6) All grants shall be subject to final  
26          approval by the commission.

27          (7) Prior to final approval, the commission  
28          may require the applicant to execute a cove-  
29          nant to secure continued public access and  
30          maintenance of the historic integrity of the  
31          structure, and a right of first refusal for  
32          the State.

33          With respect to the quality of work to be performed  
34          through this grant program, the commission and the  
35          director shall be guided by the United States Secre-  
36          tary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

37            **Sec. 2. Issue of bonds to provide for the resto-**  
38            **ration and preservation of the most unique historic**  
39            **structures. The Treasurer of State is authorized.**

1 under the direction of the Governor, to issue from  
2 time to time serial coupon bonds in the name and be-  
3 half of the State to an amount not exceeding  
4 \$1,500,000, for the purpose of raising funds to pro-  
5 vide for the restoration and preservation of the most  
6 unique historic structures as authorized by section  
7 7. The bonds shall be deemed a pledge of the faith  
8 and credit of the State. The bonds shall not run for  
9 a longer period than 20 years from the date of the  
10 original issue thereof. Any issuance of bonds may  
11 contain a call feature at the discretion of the Trea-  
12 surer of State with the approval of the Governor.

13       **Sec. 3. Records of bonds issued to be kept by**  
14 **the State Auditor and Treasurer of State.** The State  
15 Auditor shall keep an account of the bonds, showing  
16 the number and amount of each, the date when payable  
17 and the date of delivery thereof to the Treasurer of  
18 State who shall keep an account of each bond showing  
19 the number thereof, the name of the successful bidder  
20 to whom sold, the amount received for the same, the  
21 date of sale and the date when payable.

22       **Sec. 4. Sale, how negotiated; proceeds appropri-**  
23 **ated.** The Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale  
24 of the bonds by direction of the Governor; but no  
25 such bond may be loaned, pledged or hypothecated in  
26 behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of the  
27 bonds, which shall be held by the Treasurer of State  
28 and paid by him upon warrants drawn by the Governor,  
29 are appropriated to be used solely for the purposes  
30 set forth in this Act. Any unencumbered balances re-  
31 maining at the completion of the projects in section  
32 7 shall lapse to the debt service account established  
33 for the retirement of these bonds.

34       **Sec. 5. Interest and debt retirement.** Interest  
35 due or accruing upon any bonds issued under this Act  
36 and all sums coming due for payment of bonds at matu-  
37 rity shall be paid by the Treasurer of State.

38       **Sec. 6. Disbursement of bonds proceeds.** The  
39 proceeds of the bonds shall be expended under the di-  
40 rection and supervision of the Director of the His-  
41 toric Preservation Commission.



1 of State in the same manner as votes for members of  
2 the Legislature. The Governor shall review the re-  
3 turns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal  
4 votes are in favor of the Act, the Governor shall  
5 proclaim that fact without delay, and the Act shall  
6 become effective 30 days after the date of the proc-  
7 lamation.

8 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish  
9 to each city, town and plantation all ballots, re-  
10 turns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out  
11 the purpose of this referendum.

12 STATEMENT OF FACT

13 The purpose of this bond issue is to provide \$1.5  
14 million to stabilize and restore the most unique his-  
15 toric structures of the State which are in public or  
16 nonprofit ownership. These structures include forts,  
17 meeting houses, theaters, ships, house museums and  
18 archeological sites which contribute significantly to  
19 the tourist industry and are a valuable educational  
20 resource for all Maine people. Only structures that  
21 will be open to the public can receive restoration  
22 funds.

23 The restoration program provides matching grants  
24 through a competitive application process adminis-  
25 tered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.  
26 Present estimates indicate approximately 60 eligible  
27 properties with restoration needs that exceed \$4.2  
28 million. State grants, once matched, would provide a  
29 total funding effort approximating \$3.0 million.

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