

1	(EMERGENCY)
2 3	SECOND REGULAR SESSION
4 5	ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
6 7	Legislative Document No. 2279
8	H.P. 1726 House of Representatives, March 16, 1984
9	Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs is suggested and ordered printed.
10	EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
. 11	Presented by Representative Kelleher of Bangor. Cosponsors: Senator Danton of York, Representative Paradis of Augusta and Representative Drinkwater of Belfast.
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13	STATE OF MAINE
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15	IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16	NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR
17	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
18	AN ACT to Authorize a General Fund Bond
19 20	Issue in the Amount of \$1,500,000 for the Design, Construction and Equipping of a Crime
20 21	Lab and Morque.
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. 23	Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
24	lature do not become effective until 90 days after
25	adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
26	Whereas, there is an immediate need for adequate
27	forensic laboratory facilities; and
28	Whereas, there is already scheduled an election
29	in June, 1984, at which time the electorate could
30	vote upon ratification of the bond issue authorized
31	in this Act; and
32	Whereas, if the bond issue is ratified in June,
33	1984, construction could begin during the 1984 con-
34	struction season; and

1 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, 2 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of 3 the Constitution of Maine and require the following 4 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-5 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 6 therefore,

7 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as 8 follows:

9 Sec. 1. Issue of bonds to provide for the de-10 sign, construction and equipping of a crime lab and 11 morgue. The Treasurer of State may, under the direction of the Governor, issue from time to time serial 12 13 coupon bonds in the name and behalf of the State to 14 an amount not exceeding \$1,500,000, for the purpose of raising funds to provide for the design, construc-15 16 tion and equipping of a crime lab and morgue as au-17 thorized by section 6. The bonds shall be deemed a 18 pledge of the faith and credit of the State. The 19 bonds shall not run for a longer period than 20 years 20 from the date of the original issue thereof. Any is-21 suance of bonds may contain a call feature at the 22 discretion of the Treasurer of State with the approv-23 al of the Governor.

24 Sec. 2. Records of bonds issued to be kept by 25 State Auditor and Treasurer of State. the The State Auditor shall keep an account of the bonds showing 26 27 the number and amount of each, the date when payable and the date of delivery thereof to the Treasurer of 28 29 State who shall keep an account of each bond showing 30 the number thereof, the name of the successful bidder to whom sold, the amount received for the bond, 31 the 32 date of sale and the date when payable.

33 Sale, how negotiated; proceeds appropri-Sec. 3. 34 ated. The Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale of the bonds by direction of the Governor; but no such bond shall be loaned, pledged or hypothecated in 35 36 37 behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of the bonds, which shall be held by the Treasurer of State 38 and paid by him upon warrants drawn by the Governor, 39 are appropriated to be used solely for the purposes set forth in this Act. Any unencumbered balances re-40 are 41 maining at the completion of the project in section 42

1 6 shall lapse to the debt service account established 2 for the retirement of these bonds.

3 Sec. 4. Interest and debt retirement. Interest 4 due or accruing upon any bonds issued under this Act 5 and all sums coming due for payment of bonds at matu-6 rity shall be paid by the Treasurer of State.

7 Sec. 5. Disbursement of bonds' proceeds. The 8 proceeds of the bonds shall be expended under the di-9 rection and supervision of the Director of Public Im-10 provements.

11 Sec. 6. Allocations from General Fund bond is-12 sue; crime lab and morgue construction.

13 PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

14

Crime Lab and Morgue Construction \$1,500,000

15 Sec. 7. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue. Sections 1 to 6 shall not become effective unless and until the people of the State have ratified the issuance of bonds as set forth in this Act.

19 Sec. 8. Appropriation balances at year end. At 20 the end of each fiscal year, all unencumbered appro-21 priation balances representing state moneys shall 22 carry forward from year to year.

23 Sec. 9. Statutory referendum procedure; submis-24 sion at statewide election; emergency clause. This Act shall be submitted to the legal voters of 25 the 26 State of Maine at the primary election to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of June, following passage of 27 this 28 city aldermen, Act. The town selectmen and 29 plantation assessors of this State shall notify the 30 inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by 31 law 32 for holding a statewide election to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting 33 on the 34 following question:

35 "Shall a \$1,500,000 bond issue be authorized to 36 build a State Police crime lab and morgue?"

Page 3-L.D. 2279

The legal voters of each city, 1 town and 2 plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and 3 shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark 4 placed within a corresponding square below the word 5 "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received, sorted, 6 counted and declared in open ward, town and 7 plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary 8 of of State in the same manner as votes for members 9 the Legislature. The Governor shall review the re-10 turns, and, if it appears that a majority of the legal voters are in favor of the Act, the Governor 11 shall proclaim that fact without delay, and in view 12 13 of the emergency set out in the preamble, the Act 14 shall become effective 30 days after the date of the 15 proclamation.

16 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish 17 to each city, town and plantation all ballots, re-18 turns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out 19 the purpose of this referendum.

STATEMENT OF FACT

21 This bill permits the Maine State Police and the 22 State Medical Examiner to provide for the first time 23 adequate forensic laboratory services. Presently, 24 most crime lab services are obtained out-of-state with the FBI in Washington D.C. Due to federal 25 bud-26 get restrictions, the FBI can no longer provide prompt service. Serious delays in analyzing evidence 27 28 have compromised prosecution efforts in Maine. This 29 laboratory would be available to every state, county 30 and local enforcement agency in Maine.

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Page 4-L.D. 2279