

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 2280

6
7 H.P. 1727

House of Representatives, March 16, 1984

8 Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs is
9 suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

10 Presented by Representative Rolde of York.

Cosponsors: Representative Baker of Portland and Representative
Randall of East Machias.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR
16

17 AN ACT to Authorize a General Fund Bond
18 Issue in the Amount of \$1,500,000 for
19 Restoration and Preservation of Historic
20 Structures.
21

22 Preamble. Two thirds of both Houses of the Leg-
23 islature deeming it necessary in accordance with the
24 Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 14, to au-
25 thorize the issuance of bonds on behalf of the State
26 of Maine to provide for the restoration and preserva-
27 tion of historic structures.

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

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

32 E. The director may administer a program of
33 state financed grants for the stablilization and
34 restoration of unique historic structures con-
35 sistent 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 historica-
14 l 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 tota-
22 l 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 Treas-
12 urer 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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