

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 603

6
7 H.P. 423

House of Representatives, February 19, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

9 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

10 Presented by Representative Lacroix of Oakland.

Cosponsored by President Pray of Penobscot, Representative Matthews
of Caribou and Representative Nadeau of Lewiston.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Provide a 10% Contingency in the
18 School Construction Debt Service
19 Limit.
20

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

23 20-A MRSA §15905, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL
24 1983, c. 859, Pt. L, §1, is further amended to read:

25 A. The state board may approve projects so long
26 as no project approval will cause debt service
27 costs, as defined in section 15503, subsection 9,
28 paragraphs A and D, to exceed \$35,000,000 in a
29 subsequent fiscal year. The state board may in-
30 crease the limit by 10% to take into account in-
31 creased requests for projects deemed necessary by
32 the state board because of the unusually heavy
33 local demand for high priority school construc-
34 tion. This paragraph shall take effect on July
35 1, 1986.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2 A number of school districts have been unable to
3 construct needed school facilities because of the
4 debt service limit of \$30,000,000 which has been in
5 place since 1977. In September, 1984, the Legisla-
6 ture increased the debt service limit to \$35,000,000
7 and at the same time specified that priorities should
8 be established for school construction necessitated
9 by the requirements of the Education Reform Act.

10 At the present time, there are requests to the
11 State Board of Education for new buildings, additions
12 and renovations totalling an estimated \$85,000,000.
13 In order to meet these school facilities needs in a
14 timely and responsible manner, the State Board of Ed-
15 ucation should be provided with some flexibility in
16 terms of the debt service limit.

17 This bill suggests a 10% contingency which would
18 be used only in times of unusually heavy local demand
19 for high priority school construction.

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