

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1027

H.P. 764 House of Representatives, March 31, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative MCGOWAN of Canaan.

Cosponsored by Representative STANLEY of Cumberland,
Senator PEARSON of Penobscot and President PRAY of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue
2 in the Amount of \$50,000,000 to Finance the
3 Acquisition of Land for Conservation, Outdoor
4 Recreation and Wildlife.
5

6 Preamble. Two thirds of both Houses of the Leg-
7 islature deeming it necessary in accordance with the
8 Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 14, to au-
9 thorize the issuance of bonds on behalf of the State
10 of Maine to provide funds for the acquisition of land
11 for conservation, outdoor recreation and wildlife.

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

14 Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds to provide for
15 conservation, outdoor recreation and wildlife. The
16 Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction

1 of the Governor, to issue from time to time regis-
2 tered bonds in the name and behalf of the State to an
3 amount not exceeding \$50,000,000 for the purpose of
4 raising funds to acquire lands for conservation, out-
5 door recreation and wildlife as authorized by section
6 6. The bonds shall be deemed a pledge of the full
7 faith and credit of the State. The bonds shall not
8 run for a longer period than 20 years from the date
9 of the original issue of the bonds. Any issuance of
10 bonds may contain a call feature at the discretion of
11 the Treasurer of State with the approval of the Gov-
12 ernor.

13 **Sec. 2. 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 of the bonds to the Treasur-
18 er of State who shall keep an account of each bond
19 showing the number of the bond, the name of the suc-
20 cessful bidder to whom sold, the amount received for
21 the same, the date of sale and the date when payable.

22 **Sec. 3. 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 State Con-
29 troller, are appropriated to be used solely for the
30 purposes set forth in this Act. Any unencumbered
31 balances remaining at the completion of the project
32 in section 6 shall lapse to the debt service account
33 established for the retirement of these bonds.

34 **Sec. 4. 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. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds.** The pro-
39 ceeds of the bonds set out in section 6 shall be ex-
40 pended under the direction and supervision of the Di-
41 rector of the State Planning Office until the crea-
42 tion of a Recreation and Natural Heritage Board for
43 acquisition of lands for conservation, outdoor recre-
44 ation and wildlife.

1 voters of the State of Maine at a statewide election
2 to be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday
3 of November following passage of this Act. The city
4 aldermen, town selectmen and plantation assessors of
5 this State shall notify the inhabitants of their re-
6 spective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in
7 the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide
8 election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of
9 this Act by voting on the following question:

10 "Do you favor a \$50,000,000 bond issue, to
11 be sold over 5 years, for acquisition and
12 development of state-owned conservation,
13 outdoor recreation and wildlife areas?"

14 The legal voters of each city, town and planta-
15 tion shall vote by ballot on this question and shall
16 designate their choice by a cross or check mark
17 placed within a corresponding square below the word
18 "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received,
19 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and
20 plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary
21 of State in the same manner as voters for members of
22 the Legislature. The Governor shall review the re-
23 turns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal
24 voters are in favor of the Act, the Governor shall
25 proclaim that fact without delay, and the Act shall
26 become effective 30 days after the date of the proc-
27 lamation.

28 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish
29 to each city, town and plantation all ballots, re-
30 turns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out
31 the purpose of this referendum.

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The continued availability of the public access
3 to recreation areas and the protection of sensitive
4 natural areas and wildlife habitat are critical to
5 the quality of life Maine citizens and visitors to
6 our state enjoy. Maine's clean environment, readily
7 available public recreation facilities and abundant
8 wildlife are attractions which contribute substan-
9 tially to the maintenance and growth of Maine's
10 \$1,250,000,000 per year tourism industry that pro-
11 vides 43,000 full-time equivalent jobs for Maine peo-
12 ple.

13 The Recreation and Natural Heritage Fund, as es-
14 tablished under separate legislation, will allocate
15 the funds provided by this bond issue among existing
16 agencies for acquiring and developing property for
17 public recreation or to protect ecologically signifi-
18 cant natural areas. Portions of these funds will be
19 available to match, as provided by law, funds or
20 property donations from the Federal Government, mu-
21 nicipalities, and private, nonprofit organizations.
22 It is the intent of this bond issue that the money be
23 disbursed at the rate of approximately \$10,000,000 a
24 year.

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