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FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 675

H.P. 481

House of Representatives, February 20, 1991

Reported by Representative ERWIN for the Joint Standing Committee on Audit and Program Review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, chapter 33.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Audit and Program Review suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 18.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$10,045,000 for the Maine Technical College System.

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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 funds for the Maine Technical College System.

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

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Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds to provide for the Maine Technical College System. The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and behalf of the State in an amount not exceeding \$10,045,000 to raise funds for the purchase of technical training equipment for all branches of the Maine Technical College System as authorized by The bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit section 6. of the State. The bonds may not run for a period longer than 20 years from the date of the original issue of the bonds. At the discretion of the Treasurer of State, with the approval of the Governor, any issuance of bonds may contain a call feature.

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Sec. 2. Records of bonds issued to be kept by the State Auditor and Treasurer of State. The State Auditor shall keep an account of the bonds, showing the number and amount of each, the date when payable and the date of delivery of the bonds to the Treasurer of State. The Treasurer of State shall keep an account of each bond showing the number of the bond, the name of the successful bidder to whom sold, the amount received for the bond, the date of sale and the date when payable.

Sale; how negotiated; proceeds appropriated. Sec. 3. The Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale of the bonds by direction of the Governor, but no bond may be loaned, pledged or hypothecated on behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of the bonds, which must be held by the Treasurer of State and paid by the Treasurer of State upon warrants drawn by the State Controller, are appropriated solely for the purposes set forth in this Act. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the project in section 6 lapse to the debt service account 38 established for the retirement of these bonds.

Sec. 4. Interest and debt retirement. The Treasurer of State shall pay interest due or accruing on any bonds issued under this Act and all sums coming due for payment of bonds at maturity.

Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds. The proceeds of the bonds must be expended as set out in section 6 under 46 the direction and supervision of the Board of Trustees of the Maine 48 Technical College System.

Sec. 6. Allocations from General Fund bond issue; Maine Technical College System. The proceeds of the sale of bonds must be expended as designated in the following schedule.

MAINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

TOTAL	\$10,045,000
Technical Training Equipment Washington County Technical College	<u>\$850,000</u>
Technical Training Equipment Southern Maine Technical College	\$ 2,960,000
Technical Training Equipment Northern Maine Technical College	\$ 1,975,000
Technical Training Equipment Kennebec Valley Technical College	\$ 850,000
Technical Training Equipment Eastern Maine Technical College	\$ 1,400,000
Technical Training Equipment Central Maine Technical College	\$ 2,010,000

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

Sec. 8. Appropriation balances at year end. At the end of each fiscal year, all unencumbered appropriation balances representing state money carry forward. Bond proceeds that have not been expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the bonds lapse to General Fund debt service.

Sec. 9. Bonds authorized but not issued. Any bonds authorized but not issued, or for which bond anticipation notes are not issued within 5 years of ratification of this Act, are deauthorized and may not be issued; except that the Legislature may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period, extend the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds or bond anticipation notes for an additional amount of time not to exceed 5 years.

46 Sec. 10. Referendum for ratification; submission at statewide election; form of question; effective date. This Act must be submitted
48 to the legal voters of the State of Maine at a statewide election held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November
50 following passage of this Act. The municipal

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officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

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"Do you favor a \$10,045,000 bond issue for financing the purchase of technical training equipment needed by all branches of the Maine Technical College System?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns and, if a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim the result without delay, and the Act becomes effective 30 days after the date of the proclamation.

The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.

STATEMENT OF FACT

30 The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$10,045,000, will be used to purchase technical training equipment needed by the Maine Technical College System. As a 32 result of its recent review of the Maine Technical College 34 System, the Joint Standing Committee on Audit and Program Review is recommending this bill to alleviate a significant shortfall in 36 both the quantity and quality of the technical training equipment currently available to the Maine Technical College System. Α more detailed justification and explanation of the need for this 38 bond issue can be found in the Audit and Program Review 40 Committee's 1990-91 Review of the Maine Technical College System, which will be published in February 1991.

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