

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1939

DATE: 3/30/94

(Filing No. S-565 )

**APPROPRIATIONS & FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

Reported by: MINORITY

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
116TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 717, L.D. 1939, Bill, "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$10,000,000 to Expand and Improve the State's Distance Learning Infrastructure"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$10,000,000 to Expand and Improve the State's Distance Learning Infrastructure and to Make Certain Changes to the Laws'**

Further amend the bill in the preamble in the 4th line (page 1, line 4 in L.D.) by adding after the following: "funds" the following: 'to cover the initial capitalization costs'

Further amend the bill by inserting after the enacting clause and before section 1 the following:

**'PART A'**

Further amend the bill in section one in the first line (page 1, line 10 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "construct" and inserting in its place the following: 'initiate the construction of'

Further amend the bill in section one in the 4th line (page 1, line 13 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "and" the following: 'on'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in the 7th line (page 1, line 16 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "10" and inserting in its place the following: '5'

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

R & S

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 717, L.D. 1939

2 Further amend the bill in section 6 in the first line (page  
1, line 47 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "construct"  
4 and inserting in its place the following: 'initiate the construction  
of'

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8 Further amend the bill in section 6 in the 7th line (page 2,  
line 9 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Interactive" and  
10 inserting in its place the following: 'Provides funds for the  
initial capitalization costs of an Interactive'

12 Further amend the bill in section 10 in the first line (page  
2, line 30 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "general" and  
14 inserting in its place the following: 'primary'

16 Further amend the bill in section 10 in the 3rd and 4th  
lines (page 2, lines 32 and 33 in L.D.) by striking out the  
18 following: "next general election in the month of November" and  
inserting in its place the following: 'June 1994 primary  
20 election'

22 Further amend the bill in section 10 by striking out lines  
40 to 43 and inserting in its place the following:

24  
26 "Do you favor a \$10,000,000 bond issue to provide funds for  
the initial capitalization costs to construct a distance  
28 learning network that will link high schools around Maine  
and higher education facilities through an interactive  
television system?"

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32 Further amend the bill by inserting after section 10 and  
before the statement of fact the following:

34 **PART B**

36 **Sec. B-1. 20-A MRSA c. 329 is enacted to read:**

38 **CHAPTER 329**

40 **LEARNING LINK PROGRAM**

42 **§9801. Learning Link Program established**

44 There is established within the department the Learning Link  
46 Program to link state high schools and higher education systems.  
The department shall provide timely notice to state high schools  
48 of the program and distribute requests for proposals for  
participation in the program.

R. O. S.

§9802. Criteria for participation

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The commissioner shall evaluate and select proposals for inclusion in the Learning Link Program, based on criteria developed by the department, that demonstrate the applicant's need, interest and ability to utilize the Learning Link Program and applicant's willingness and ability to work with surrounding high schools to deliver Learning Link Programs. In selecting applicants for participation, the commissioner shall consider the geographic distribution of selected sites.

Sec. B-2. Contingent effective date. This Part takes effect only if the general revenue bond issue authorized in Part A is approved by the voters of this State.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:

**FISCAL NOTE**

The estimated costs of sending this bond issue out to referendum will vary according to the total number of referenda enacted during the Second Regular Session of the 116th Legislature. The estimated cost to the Secretary of State if one to 6 referenda are enacted is \$95,000. Each additional referendum costs an additional \$7,000.

If approved by the voters, the total cost of this bond issue is estimated to be \$11,000,000 with principal payments of \$10,000,000 and interest payments of approximately \$1,000,000.

In addition, the Department of Education will require future General Fund appropriations estimated to be \$10,000,000 per year for the operating costs associated with the upgrade and expansion of the interactive television system. This legislation allows for a phased-in approach toward implementing a distance learning network.'

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

Part A of this amendment clarifies that this bond issue represents the initial costs to establish a distance learning infrastructure, decreases the length of the bond authorization from 10 years to 5 years and changes the date of the bond issue referendum from the November 1994 general election to the June 1994 primary election.

RCS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 717, L.D. 1939

2 Part B of this amendment establishes the "Learning Link  
Program" in statute, including criteria for selecting high  
4 schools around the State in the program.

This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.