

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D.S.

DATE: June 22, 1995

(Filing No. S- 308)

**APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

Reported by: The Majority of the Committee.

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
117TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 171, L.D. 432, Bill, "An Act Authorizing a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$15,000,000 to Expand Maine's Interactive Television System to Maine High Schools"

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

**'An Act Authorizing a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$15,000,000 to Expand Telecommunications Capabilities and Student Learning Opportunities in Maine Schools'**

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting in its place the following:

**'Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds to provide access to and utilization of a statewide telecommunications network.** The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on behalf of the State in an amount not exceeding \$15,000,000 to raise funds for local technology infrastructure and purchase of classroom technology equipment for the State's public schools, applied technology centers and regions, and selected public libraries so that they might connect with and utilize a statewide telecommunications infrastructure of interactive fiber optic cable and ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) switching as authorized by section 6. The bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for a period longer than 10 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.'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 6 and inserting in its place the following:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

2 'Sec. 6. Allocations from General Fund bond issue; authorization of  
bonds to provide access to and utilization of a statewide  
4 telecommunications network. The proceeds of the sale of bonds  
must be expended as designated in the following schedule.

6 1995-96

8 EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

10 Local access costs and one-time  
12 capital costs for classroom  
technology infrastructure and  
14 equipment \$15,000,000'

16 Further amend the bill in section 10 by striking out all of  
the question (page 2, lines 40 to 43 in L.D.) and inserting in  
its place the following:

18 ' "Do you favor a \$15,000,000 bond issue to fund local  
20 telecommunications infrastructure and classroom technology  
equipment to enhance interactive telecommunications  
22 capabilities and student learning opportunities in the  
State's schools?" '

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

28 FISCAL NOTE

30 The estimated cost of sending this bond issue out to  
32 referendum will vary according to the total number of referenda  
enacted during the First Regular Session of the 117th  
34 Legislature. The estimated cost to the Secretary of State if one  
to 6 referenda are enacted is \$95,000. Each additional  
36 referendum costs an additional \$7,000.

38 If approved by the voters, the total cost of this bond issue  
is estimated to be \$19,207,500 with principal payments of  
40 \$15,000,000 and interest payments of approximately \$4,207,500.

42 The annual operating costs associated with the expansion of  
telecommunications capabilities and student learning  
44 opportunities in the State's schools will be approximately  
\$200,000 per year initially, and will increase to as much as  
46 \$2,800,000 per year when the expansion is complete in 1999. The  
Department of Education will request future General Fund  
48 appropriations to support some portion of these operating costs.'

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 171, L.D. 432

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

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This amendment represents the majority report of the committee. The amendment replaces the title and clarifies that the purpose of the bond is to expand telecommunications capabilities in the State's schools. The amendment further changes the term of the bond to 10 years and adds a fiscal note to the bill.