

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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AWS.

L.D. 432

DATE: JUNE 22, 1995

(Filing No. S-309 )

**APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

Reported by: The Minority of the Committee.

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " B " 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.'

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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

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

8 1995-96

10 EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

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

18 Further amend the bill in section 10 in the first line (page  
20 2, line 30 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "statewide"  
and inserting in its place the following: 'June 1996 primary  
22 election'

24 Further amend the bill in section 10 in the first paragraph  
in the 3rd and 4th lines (page 2, lines 32 and 33 in L.D.) by  
26 striking out the following: "a statewide election held on the  
Tuesday following the first Monday of November" and inserting in  
its place the following: 'the June 1996 primary election'

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

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

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

42 'FISCAL NOTE

44 The estimated cost of sending this bond issue out to  
46 referendum will vary according to the total number of referenda  
enacted during the First and Second Regular Sessions of the 117th  
48 Legislature that will be presented to the voters at the June 1996  
primary election. The estimated cost to the Secretary of State  
50 if one to 6 referenda are enacted is \$95,000. Each additional

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

2 referendum costs an additional \$7,000. The Secretary of State's  
proposed fiscal year 1995-96 budget does not include funding for  
4 June 1996 referendum questions.

6 If approved by the voters, the total cost of this bond issue  
is estimated to be \$19,207,500 with principal payments of  
8 \$15,000,000 and interest payments of approximately \$4,207,500.

10 The annual operating costs associated with the expansion of  
telecommunications capabilities and student learning  
12 opportunities in the State's schools will be approximately  
\$200,000 per year initially, and will increase to as much as  
14 \$2,800,000 per year when the expansion is complete in 1999. The  
Department of Education will request future General Fund  
16 appropriations to support some portion of these operating costs.'

18 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

20 This amendment represents the minority report of the  
committee. The amendment replaces the title and clarifies that  
22 the purpose of the bond is to expand telecommunication  
capabilities in the State's schools. The amendment changes the  
24 term of the bond to 10 years. It requires that the referendum be  
presented to the voters at the June 1996 primary election. The  
26 amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**