

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 432

S.P. 171

In Senate, February 6, 1995

**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.**

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "May M. Ross".

MAY M. ROSS
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator AMERO of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senators: ABROMSON of Cumberland, BUTLAND of Cumberland, CASSIDY of Washington, HARRIMAN of Cumberland, MILLS of Somerset, SMALL of Sagadahoc, Representatives: AULT of Wayne, BARTH of Bethel, BOUFFARD of Lewiston, BRENNAN of Portland, CLOUTIER of South Portland, DESMOND of Mapleton, DiPIETRO of South Portland, GERRY of Auburn, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, MARVIN of Cape Elizabeth, McELROY of Unity, MITCHELL of Vassalboro.

2 **Preamble.** Two thirds of both Houses of the Legislature
deeming it necessary in accordance with the Constitution of
4 Maine, Article IX, Section 14, to authorize the issuance of bonds
on behalf of the State of Maine to provide funds for a distance
6 learning network between the State's secondary education and
higher education facilities.

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

10 **Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds to provide for funds to construct a**
distance learning network. The Treasurer of State is authorized,
12 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
14 to raise funds for the extension and improvement of the State's
distance learning network as authorized by section 6. The bonds
16 are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State. The
bonds may not run for a period longer than 20 years from the date
18 of the original issue of the bonds. At the discretion of the
Treasurer of State, with the approval of the Governor, any
20 issuance of bonds may contain a call feature.

22 **Sec. 2. Records of bonds issued to be kept by the Treasurer of State.**
The Treasurer of State shall keep an account of each bond showing
24 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
26 date when payable.

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

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

42 **Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds.** The proceeds of the
44 bonds must be expended as set out in section 6 under the
direction and supervision of the Department of Education.

46 **Sec. 6. Allocations from General Fund bond issue; construct a**
48 **learning network between the State's secondary education and higher**

2 **education facilities.** The proceeds of the sale of bonds must be
expended as designated in the following schedule.

4 **1995-96**

6 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

8 Interactive Television System
10 Upgrade and New Equipment \$15,000,000

12 **Sec. 7. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue.** Sections 1 to
14 6 do not become effective unless the people of the State have
ratified the issuance of bonds as set forth in this Act.

16 **Sec. 8. Appropriation balances at year end.** At the end of each
18 fiscal year, all unencumbered appropriation balances representing
20 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.

22 **Sec. 9. Bonds authorized but not issued.** Any bonds authorized
24 but not issued, or for which bond anticipation notes are not
26 issued within 5 years of ratification of this Act, are
deauthorized and may not be issued; except that the Legislature
28 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.

30 **Sec. 10. Referendum for ratification; submission at statewide
election; form of question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted
32 to the legal voters of the State of Maine at a statewide election
34 held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November
following passage of this Act. The municipal officers of this
36 State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities,
towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law
38 for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or
rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

40 "Do you favor a \$15,000,000 bond issue to construct a
42 distance learning network linking the State's high schools
and higher education facilities through an interactive
44 television system?"

46 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
48 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,

2 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings
and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as
4 votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review
the returns and, if a majority of the legal votes are cast in
6 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.

8
10 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.

12
14 STATEMENT OF FACT

16 The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of
\$15,000,000, will be used to raise funds to enhance and improve
18 the State's distance learning infrastructure establishing a
distance learning network that would link the State's high
20 schools and higher education facilities through an interactive
television system.