

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1996

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Legislative Document

No. 1848

S.P. 740

In Senate, March 13, 1996

**An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$5,500,000 for Major Improvements at State Park and Historic Site Facilities and for the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund and the Land for Maine's Future Fund.**

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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 CASSIDY of Washington. (GOVERNOR'S BILL).  
Cosponsored by Senators: LORD of York, PARADIS of Aroostook, Representatives:  
DEXTER of Kingfield, HEESCHEN of Wilton, KERR of Old Orchard Beach, MARTIN of  
Eagle Lake, POULIOT of Lewiston, STROUT of Corinth.

2           **Preamble.** Two thirds of both Houses of the Legislature  
3           deeming it necessary in accordance with the Constitution of  
4           Maine, Article IX, Section 14, to authorize the issuance of bonds  
5           on behalf of the State of Maine to provide funds for major  
6           improvements at state park facilities and for the Public Access  
7           to Maine Waters Fund and the Land for Maine's Future Fund.

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

10           **Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds to provide for major improvements at**  
11           **state park facilities and for the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund and**  
12           **the Land for Maine's Future Fund.** The Treasurer of State is  
13           authorized, under the direction of the Governor, to issue bonds  
14           in the name and on behalf of the State in an amount not exceeding  
15           \$5,500,000 to: raise funds for major improvements at state park  
16           and historic site facilities, specifically renovations needed to  
17           make state parks and historic sites accessible to people with  
18           disabilities according to standards set by state and federal law,  
19           completion of the roof and masonry restoration at Fort Knox State  
20           Historic Site and the replacement of Churchill Dam in the  
21           Allagash Wilderness Waterway; purchase land for public access to  
22           fresh or coastal waters that presently have no public access or  
23           very limited public access, and provide minimal capital  
24           improvements on the property to provide for public access or  
25           improved accessibility as authorized by section 6; and to provide  
26           funds for the purchase of property with outstanding recreational,  
27           scenic, natural or habitat preservation values and minimal  
28           capital improvements on those properties to provide public access  
29           as authorized by section 6. The bonds are a pledge of the full  
30           faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for a  
31           period longer than 20 years from the date of the original issue  
32           of the bonds. At the discretion of the Treasurer of State, with  
33           the approval of the Governor, any issuance of bonds may contain a  
34           call feature.

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

42           **Sec. 3. Sale; how negotiated; proceeds appropriated.** The  
43           Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale of the bonds by  
44           direction of the Governor, but no bond may be loaned, pledged or  
45           hypothecated on behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of  
46           the bonds, which must be held by the Treasurer of State and paid  
47           by the Treasurer of State upon warrants drawn by the State  
48           Controller, are appropriated solely for the purposes set forth in  
49           this Act. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion

2 of the project in section 6 lapse to the debt service account  
3 established for the retirement of these bonds.

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

8 **Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds.** The proceeds of the  
9 bonds must be expended as set out in section 6 under the  
10 direction and supervision of the Director of the Bureau of Parks  
11 and Lands and the Land for Maine's Future Board.

12 **Sec. 6. Allocations from General Fund bond issue; major**  
13 **improvements at state park and historic site facilities and for the Public**  
14 **Access to Maine Waters Fund and the Land for Maine's Future Fund.**  
15 The proceeds of the sale of bonds must be expended as designated  
16 in the following schedule.

	1996-97
<b>Department of Conservation</b>	
<b>Bureau of Parks and Lands</b>	\$3,000,000
Provides funds for major capital improvements at state park and historic site facilities, specifically, renovations needed to make state parks and historic sites accessible to people with disabilities; completion of roof and masonry restoration at Fort Knox State Historic Site and the replacement of Churchill Dam in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.	
<b>Public Access to Maine Waters Fund</b>	\$1,250,000
Provides funds for the purchase of property or interest in property to establish or maintain public access to fresh or coastal waters that presently have no public access or very limited public access and to provide minimal capital improvements on the property to facilitate or improve public access.	
<b>Land for Maine's Future Fund</b>	\$1,250,00
Provides funds for the purchase of property or interest in property with outstanding scenic, natural or habitat preservation	

2 values and minimal capital improvements on  
those properties to provide or facilitate  
public access.

4

6 **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.

8

10 **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  
12 expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the bonds  
lapse to General Fund debt service.

14

16 **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  
18 deauthorized and may not be issued; except that the Legislature  
may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period,  
20 extend the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds or  
bond anticipation notes for an additional amount of time not to  
22 exceed 5 years.

24

26 **Sec. 10. Referendum for ratification; submission at general election;  
form of question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted to the  
legal voters of the State of Maine at the next general election  
in the month of November following passage of this Act. The  
28 municipal 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 general election, to vote  
30 on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the  
following question:

32

34 "Do you favor a \$5,500,000 bond issue to purchase land for  
access and conservation of outstanding Maine lands and to  
36 make capital improvements at state parks and historic sites?"

38

40 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,  
42 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings  
and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as  
44 votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review  
the returns and, if a majority of the legal votes are cast in  
46 favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim the result without  
delay, and the Act becomes effective 30 days after the date of  
48 the proclamation.

2 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.

4  
6 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

8 The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of  
\$5,500,000, will be used to ensure conservation of and access to  
Maine's lands, waters, state parks and state historic sites.

10  
12 From the bond issue, \$1,250,000 will be used to provide  
funds for the Public Access to Maine Waters Funds. The primary  
purpose of the fund, which is administered by the Land for  
14 Maine's Future Board, is to purchase property or interests in  
property to provide public access to fresh or coastal waters that  
16 presently have no public access, or very limited public access.  
An additional \$1,250,000 will be used to provide funds for the  
18 Land for Maine's Future Fund. The primary purpose of the fund is  
to purchase property or interest in property with outstanding  
20 recreational, scenic, natural or habitat preservation values.

22 Finally, \$3,000,000 will be used for major capital  
improvements at state parks and historic sites; specifically,  
24 access improvements for people with disabilities, the completion  
of roof and masonry restoration at Fort Knox State Historic Site  
and the replacement of Churchill Dam to protect fishery and  
26 recreational values in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.