

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

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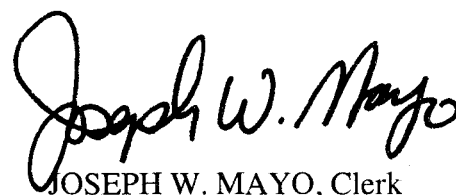
H.P. 622

House of Representatives, February 2, 1999

**An Act Authorizing a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of  
\$7,500,000 to Fund Seat Belts for School Buses.**

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

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MENDROS of Lewiston.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BAKER of Bangor, COTE of Lewiston, DUGAY of  
Cherryfield, GERRY of Auburn, GOODWIN of Pembroke, SHOREY of Calais, Senator:  
BENOIT of Franklin.

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 seat belts  
6           for school buses.

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

10           **Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds to provide for seat belts for school**  
**buses.** The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction  
12           of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on behalf of the  
State in an amount not exceeding \$7,500,000 to raise funds for  
14           seat belts for school buses as authorized by section 6. The  
bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State.  
16           The bonds may not run for a period longer than 5 years from the  
date of the original issue of the bonds. At the discretion of  
18           the Treasurer of State, with the approval of the Governor, any  
issuance of bonds may contain a call feature.

20           **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  
22           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  
24           date when payable.

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

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

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

44           **Sec. 6. Allocations from General Fund bond issue; seat belts for**  
**school buses.** The proceeds of the sale of bonds must be expended  
46           as designated in the following schedule.

2       **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

\$7,500,000

4               Funds must be used for the purchase and  
              installation of seat belts in school buses.

6               **Sec. 7. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue.** Sections 1 to  
8       6 do not become effective unless the people of the State have  
              ratified the issuance of bonds as set forth in this Act.

10              **Sec. 8. Appropriation balances at year end.** At the end of each  
12       fiscal year, all unencumbered appropriation balances representing  
              state money carry forward. Bond proceeds that have not been  
14       expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the bonds  
              lapse to General Fund debt service.

16              **Sec. 9. Bonds authorized but not issued.** Any bonds authorized  
18       but not issued, or for which bond anticipation notes are not  
              issued within 5 years of ratification of this Act, are  
20       deauthorized and may not be issued; except that the Legislature  
              may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period,  
22       extend the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds or  
              bond anticipation notes for an additional amount of time not to  
24       exceed 5 years.

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

36              "Do you favor a \$7,500,000 bond issue to ensure that school  
              buses are equipped with seat belts?"

38              The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall  
40       vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a  
              cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below  
42       the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,  
              counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings  
44       and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as  
              votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review  
46       the returns and, if a majority of the legal votes are cast in  
              favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim the result without  
48       delay, and the Act becomes effective 30 days after the date of  
              the proclamation.

2           The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each  
city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this  
4 Act necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.

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### SUMMARY

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10           The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of  
\$7,500,000, will be used to install seat belts in school buses.