

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1907

H.P. 1324

House of Representatives, March 16, 1999

**An Act to Credit a Town for Payment of School Construction.**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative ANDREWS of York.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BAKER of Bangor, CARR of Lincoln, CHICK of Lebanon,  
JOY of Crystal, SNOWE-MELLO of Poland, STEDMAN of Hartland.

2           **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** Acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

4  
6           **Whereas,** conditions existing in certain public schools  
result in a serious inability to provide appropriate education  
programs and services consistently throughout the State  
8 constitute an immediate threat to the health, safety and general  
welfare of school children, education personnel and citizens  
10 throughout the State; and

12           **Whereas,** recent analyses of studies conducted by the  
University of Maine, the Department of Education, the State Board  
14 of Education and a stakeholders group of interested parties have  
determined that the true scope of local school construction needs  
16 across the State exceeds the current resources available to meet  
the present and future health, safety, renovation and new school  
18 construction needs throughout the State; and

20           **Whereas,** the maximum debt service limits authorized by the  
Legislature currently constrain the capacity of the State and  
22 local municipalities to publicly finance school construction debt  
service costs; and

24  
26           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
28 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

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

32           **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15905-B** is enacted to read:

34           **§15905-B. Debt service credit for nonstate funded projects**

36           **1. State board approval. Notwithstanding any other**  
38 **provision of this chapter or rule to the contrary, a school**  
40 **administrative unit must be solely responsible for the principal**  
42 **and interest costs of a nonstate funded school construction**  
44 **project approved under section 15905-A until such time as the**  
46 **school administrative unit's project is approved for funding by**  
48 **the state board. When the school administrative unit's project**  
**receives final funding approval from the state board, the sum**  
**total of principal and interest costs paid from local funds**  
**without state participation must be included in the school**  
**administrative unit's debt service costs for state subsidy**  
**purposes under section 15603, subsection 8.**

