

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R & S

L.D. 2091

DATE: 5-4-99

(Filing No. H-399)

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1459, L.D. 2091, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Charter of the Richmond Utilities District"

Amend the bill by inserting after the enacting clause and before section 1 the following:

Sec. 1. P&SL 1961, c. 154, §14-A, as amended by P&SL 1995, c. 10, §1 and affected by §2, is amended by amending the first sentence to read:

For accomplishing the purpose of this Act, the district, by vote of its board of trustees, without district vote except as provided, is authorized to borrow money temporarily and to issue its negotiable notes; and for the purpose of renewing and refunding the indebtedness so created, of paying necessary expenses and liabilities incurred under the provisions of this Act, and in acquiring properties, paying damages, laying pipes, mains, sewers, drains and conduits, purchasing, constructing, maintaining and operating a water system and a sewerage system and making renewals, additions, extensions and improvements to such systems and to cover interest payments during the period of construction, the Richmond Utilities District, by votes of its board of trustees, without district vote except as provided, is also authorized to issue, from time to time, bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the district in such amount or amounts, bearing interest at such rate or rates, and having such terms and provisions as the trustees determine; except that the total indebtedness of the district may not exceed the sum of \$2,000,000 at any one time outstanding or such other amount as may be established pursuant to section 14-B and in the case of a vote by the trustees to authorize bonds or notes to pay for the

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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2 acquisition of property, except for the original acquisition of
property of Richmond Water Works, for the cost of a water system
or sewerage system or part of a water system or sewerage system,
4 for renewals or additions or for other improvements in the nature
of capital costs, the estimated cost of which singly or in the
6 aggregate included in any one financing is \$30,000 or more, but
not for renewing or refunding existing indebtedness or to pay for
8 maintenance, repairs or for current expenses, notice of the
proposed debt and of the general purpose or purposes for which it
10 was authorized must be given by the clerk by publication at least
once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of
12 Richmond.

14 **Sec. 2. P&SL 1961, c. 154, §14-B is enacted to read:**

16 **Sec. 14-B. Debt limit; referendum.** Notwithstanding the
limitation on total indebtedness established under section 14-A,
18 the trustees of the district may propose a different debt limit
and submit that debt limit for districtwide approval in a
20 referendum held in accordance with this section. The referendum
must be called, advertised and conducted according to the law
22 relating to municipal elections, except the registrar of voters
is not required to prepare or the clerk to post a new list of
24 voters. For the purpose of registering voters, the registrar of
voters must be in session on the regular workday preceding the
26 election. The question presented must conform to the following
form:

28 "Do you favor changing the debt limit of the Richmond
30 Utilities District from (insert current debt limit) to (insert
proposed debt limit)?"

32 The voters shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed
34 against the word "Yes" or "No" their opinion on the question.

36 The results must be declared by the trustees and entered
upon the district's records. Due certificate of the results must
38 be filed by the clerk with the Secretary of State.

40 A debt limit proposal becomes effective upon its acceptance
by a majority of the legal voters within the district voting at
42 the referendum. Failure of approval by the majority of voters
voting at the referendum does not prevent subsequent referenda
44 from being held for the same purpose. The costs of referenda are
borne by the district.

46 The total indebtedness of the district at any one time
48 outstanding may not exceed the sum approved by referendum.'

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1459, L.D. 2091

2 Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any
nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read
consecutively.

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SUMMARY

10 This amendment modifies the Richmond Utilities District
12 charter to allow the district to increase its debt limit through
a district referendum in same the manner as standard water
districts.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT