

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 653

H.P. 514

House of Representatives, February 8, 2001

**An Act to Authorize Department of Transportation Bond Issues in the Amount of \$2,900,000 to Fund High Priority Snowmobile Crossings on Highway Bridges and Provide Boating and Fishing Access Improvements to Highway Bridges.**

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Reported by Representative CLARK for the Commission to Study Equity in the Distribution of Gas Tax Revenues Attributable to Snowmobiles, All-terrain Vehicles and Watercraft, pursuant to Resolve 1999, chapter 131.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 218.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

2           **Preamble.** Two thirds of both Houses of the Legislature  
4           deeming it necessary in accordance with the Constitution of  
6           Maine, Article IX, Section 14 to authorize the issuance of bonds  
          on behalf of the State of Maine to provide funds for snowmobile  
          crossings and boating and fishing access improvements to highway  
          bridges.

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

10           **Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds to provide to provide for snowmobile**  
12           **crossings and boating and fishing access improvements to certain highway**  
          **bridges.** The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the  
14           direction of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on  
          behalf of the State in an amount not exceeding \$2,900,000 to  
16           provide funds for snowmobile crossings and boating and fishing  
          access improvements to highway bridges as authorized by section  
18           6. The bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the  
          State. The bonds may not run for a period longer than 10 years  
20           from the date of the original issue of the bonds. At the  
          discretion of the Treasurer of State, with the approval of the  
          Governor, any issuance of bonds may contain a call feature.

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

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

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

44           **Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds.** The proceeds of the  
          bonds must be expended as set out in section 6 under the  
46           direction and supervision of the Commissioner of Transportation.  
          The Commissioner of Transportation must consult with the  
48           Commissioner

2 of Conservation, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and  
Wildlife and the Commissioner of Marine Resources prior to any  
4 expenditure of these funds and may expend these funds only on  
projects identified by those agencies as high priority projects.

6 **Sec. 6. Allocations from General Fund bond issue; improvements to**  
8 **highways and bridges for snowmobile crossings and boating and fishing**  
access improvements. The proceeds of the sale of the bonds must  
be expended as designated in the following schedule.

10

12 **TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

14 **General Fund**

16 Carry-in boating and river bank  
access from new bridges \$400,000

18

20 Enhancements to new bridges to  
allow fishing from those bridges \$500,000

22 Enhancements to allow snowmobile  
crossings on highway bridges \$2,000,000

24

26 **General Fund Total** \$2,900,000

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

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

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

46

**Sec. 10. Referendum for ratification; submission at statewide election; form of question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the State of Maine at a statewide election held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following passage of this Act. The 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 statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

"Do you favor a \$2,900,000 bond issue to fund high priority snowmobile crossings on highway bridges and to provide boating and fishing access improvements to highway bridges?"

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

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.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill authorizes a \$2,900,000 General Fund bond issue to fund snowmobile crossings and boating and fishing access improvements on certain highway bridges. The bill requires the Commissioner of Transportation to consult with the Commissioner of Conservation, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Marine Resources prior to making any expenditures of these bond funds and allows that money to be spent only on projects identified by those agencies as high priority projects.