



## **120th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1163

S.P. 349

In Senate, February 28, 2001

An Act to Accelerate the Construction of New Schools.

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

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JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TURNER of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Representative FOSTER of Gray and Senator WOODCOCK of Franklin.

	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15903, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 1985,
4	c. 785, Pt. A, §93, is further amended to read:
б	A. The Bureau of PublicImprovements <u>General Services</u> , Department of Administration <u>Administrative and Financial</u>
8	Services;
10	Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15903, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:
12	3-A. State agency reviews. The state agencies responsible
<b>.</b> .	for approving plans and specifications under subsection 3 shall
14	review the required plans and specifications in an application and shall approve or disapprove the application within 60 days of
16	receiving the application. Each state agency shall review the
	plans and specifications and submit preliminary comments to the
18	state board within 30 days of receipt of the application. If any
	of the state agencies finds cause to disapprove the plans and
20	specifications, the agency must recommend changes to the plans
	and specifications to the state board within 30 days of receipt
22	of the application. The state board shall send the plans and
24	specifications back to the school administrative unit for any necessary corrections and shall establish a maximum time frame
44	within which the unit must make corrections and resubmit the
26	corrected plans and specifications to the state board and the
	appropriate state agency for final approval or disapproval. If
28	any of the respective state agencies fails to review and approve
	or disapprove the plans and specifications within the time limits
30	specified in this subsection, the state board may approve the
• •	plans and specifications submitted to it, with the advice and
32	consent of the commissioner.
34	Sec.3. 20-A MRSA §15905, sub-§1, ¶C is enacted to read:
36	C. Beginning with the second regular session of the
	<u>Legislature in fiscal year 2002–03 and every other year</u>
38	thereafter, the commissioner shall certify the maximum debt
4.0	service limits established by the Legislature to the state
40	board on or before July 1st. The state board shall notify school administrative units that have applied for school
42	construction projects within 30 days of the receipt of the
~~	commissioner's certification notice of those maximum debt
44	service limits. To ensure that state subsidies for school
	construction projects are allocated in an expeditious
46	manner, the state board, the department, school
	administrative units and school boards shall make every
48	reasonable effort to complete the review, local vote,
50	approval and any other requirements necessary pursuant to
50	this chapter so that construction may begin

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within 12 months of the establishment of maximum debt service limits pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15905, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

3. Certificate of approval. A certificate of approval
shall must be issued for each project approved by the state board within 30 days of final approval of the project by the state
10 board. The certificate shall must bear the amount of state aid, the date that approval was certified by the state board and other
12 stipulations or conditions. The certificate shall must be signed by the commissioner and shall-be is conclusive evidence of the
14 facts stated on it.

16 Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §15905, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

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18 8. Time line for beginning construction. In approving school construction projects, the state board and department 20 shall ensure that school administrative units have made sufficient plans to begin construction of the approved project 22 within 12 months of the establishment of maximum debt service limits pursuant to subsection 1.

## **SUMMARY**

28 This bill establishes specific time frames and a time line for the State Board of Education, the Department of Education and school administrative units in the State to review and approve 30 the necessary requirements under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 609 so that school administrative units may 32 construction certain state-supported begin for school construction projects. The bill accomplishes the following. 34

36 1. It requires that state agencies responsible for approving plans and specifications review the required plans and 38 specifications in a school construction application and approve or disapprove the application within 60 days of receiving it.

It provides that the state board, the department, school
 administrative units and school boards make every reasonable
 effort to complete the review, local vote, approval and any other
 requirements necessary so that construction may begin within 12
 months of the Legislature's action approving maximum debt service
 limits.