

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R. G. S.

L.D. 1762

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1294, L.D. 1762, Bill, "An Act to Address Maine's School Facilities Needs"

Amend the bill in section 2 in paragraph A in subparagraph (1) in division (d) in the last line (page 2, line 5 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: ";" the following: 'and'

Further amend the bill in section 2 in paragraph A in subparagraph (1) by striking out all of division (e) (page 2, lines 7 and 8 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'(e)---Removing-underground-oil-storage-tanks-on-the-grounds-of-a-school-building,-and'

Further amend the bill in section 2 in paragraph A in subparagraph (5) in the 2nd line (page 2, line 27 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$80,000,000" and inserting in its place the following: '\$75,000,000'

Further amend the bill in section 3 in the last line (page 2, line 48 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "." the following: 'Following the completion of the 2001-2002 rating cycle, the Department of Education and the State Board of Education shall review the impact of this section, also known as a "hold harmless" provision, and shall report back their findings, together with recommendations related to the establishment of an ongoing hold harmless provision in the rules governing school construction projects, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by January 15, 2003. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education

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and cultural affairs may report out legislation on the subject matter of this report to the First Regular Session of the 121st Legislature.'

Further amend the bill in section 4 in the 7th line (page 3, line 8 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "in excess of \$1,000,000" and inserting in its place the following: 'not greater than \$3,000,000'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

The additional costs associated with revising rules governing school construction projects can be absorbed by the Maine Municipal Bond Bank and the Department of Education utilizing existing budgeted resources.

The bill raises the debt service limit for school facilities bonds in future fiscal years and thereby, presumably, increases the need for additional General Fund appropriations of an indeterminate amount to satisfy that additional debt.

In addition, the bill increases the current cap from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 in the School Revolving Renovation Fund. The requirement for additional General Fund appropriations would be dependent upon a future decision as to whether or not to absorb any debt limit increases within the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program.'

SUMMARY

This amendment eliminates the removal of underground oil storage tanks on the grounds of a school building from the list of eligible school repairs and renovations that can receive first priority status from the School Revolving Renovation Fund. The amendment also reduces the amount that must be appropriated, allocated or repaid to the School Revolving Renovation Fund before permitting funds to be provided in the future for basic structural repairs, learning space upgrades and other improvements.

The amendment further directs the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to evaluate the impact of the amendment to rules governing school construction projects that established a "hold harmless" provision in the 2001-2002 rating

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2 cycle for certain school construction project applications from
the 1999-2000 rating cycle that have made interim health and
4 safety improvements prior to submitting a reapplication for the
2001-2002 rating cycle and to report their findings, together
6 with recommendations regarding the establishment of an ongoing
hold harmless provision in the rules governing school
8 construction projects, to the joint standing committee of the
legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural
affairs by January 15, 2003.

10
12 Finally, the amendment directs the Department of Education
and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to amend the rules governing
14 the School Revolving Renovation Fund to increase flexibility and
efficiency by providing that the maximum loan amount for a school
16 building may be set at a level not to exceed \$3,000,000 under
certain circumstances. It also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT