

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 919

H.P. 679

House of Representatives, March 8, 2011

**An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Weatherize
and Upgrade the Energy Efficiency of Maine Homes and Businesses
and To Provide for a Trained Workforce for Maine's Energy Future**

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative HINCK of Portland.

1 **Preamble.** Two thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in
2 accordance with the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 14 to authorize the
3 issuance of bonds on behalf of the State of Maine to provide funds as described in this
4 Act,

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

6 **Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds.** The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the
7 direction of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on behalf of the State in an
8 amount not exceeding \$55,000,000 for the purposes described in section 5 of this Act.
9 The bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for
10 a period longer than 10 years from the date of the original issue of the bonds.

11 **Sec. 2. Records of bonds issued; Treasurer of State.** The Treasurer of State
12 shall ensure that an account of each bond is kept showing the number of the bond, the
13 name of the successful bidder to whom sold, the amount received for the bond, the date of
14 sale and the date when payable.

15 **Sec. 3. Sale; how negotiated; proceeds appropriated.** The Treasurer of State
16 may negotiate the sale of the bonds by direction of the Governor, but no bond may be
17 loaned, pledged or hypothecated on behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of the
18 bonds, which must be held by the Treasurer of State and paid by the Treasurer of State
19 upon warrants drawn by the State Controller, are appropriated solely for the purposes set
20 forth in this Act. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the project
21 in this Act lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of
22 general obligation bonds.

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

26 **Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds; allocations from General Fund**
27 **bond issue.** The proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized under this Act must be
28 expended as designated in the following schedule under the direction and supervision of
29 the agencies and entities set forth in this section.

30 **MAINE STATE HOUSING**
31 **AUTHORITY**

32 Provides funds to implement existing plans for weatherizing low-income Maine
33 housing.

34
35 Total \$15,000,000

36

1 **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

2

3 **Efficiency Maine Trust**

4 Provides funds to a grant or loan program to increase electrical and thermal energy
5 efficiencies in the public and private sectors including industry, businesses, hospitals,
6 jails, schools and other large power consumers to minimum efficiency gains of 20%
7 through upgrades in waste heat recovery, district heating, cogeneration, installation of
8 variable speed drives and demand control ventilation systems.

9

10 Total \$15,000,000

11

12 **Efficiency Maine Trust**

13 Provides funds to create a revolving weatherization fund to be made available as
14 below-market loans through local financial institutions, agencies, community
15 development corporations and counties or municipalities for homeowners, owners of
16 rental properties and small business owners for required energy audits and
17 weatherization or other major energy efficiency improvements.

18

19 Total \$10,000,000

20

21 **LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF**

22 Provides funds for appropriate entities to conduct labor market research on the
23 current market and projected job growth in the green economy, emerging green
24 industries and technologies, recruitment and skill requirements and wage and benefits
25 ranges and the education and training requirements of workers in those industries;
26 funds to train workers for weatherization services and for the distribution of grants on
27 a competitive basis for basic and remedial education and transitional jobs strategies
28 for dislocated workers; and funds for the training of new workers for occupations in
29 high-demand green industries, based on current and projected job creation and the
30 workers' strategic importance to the development of the State's future economy.

31

32 Total \$10,000,000

33

34 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY**
35 **DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

1 Provides community development funds for energy efficiency for a combination of
2 low-interest and no-interest loans and grants for weatherization and other energy
3 efficiency projects for homes, businesses and community meeting places, such as
4 grange halls, community houses and other traditional public areas for gathering in a
5 community.

6
7 Total \$5,000,000

8 **Sec. 6. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue.** Sections 1 to 5 do not
9 become effective unless the people of the State ratify the issuance of the bonds as set
10 forth in this Act.

11 **Sec. 7. Appropriation balances at year-end.** At the end of each fiscal year, all
12 unencumbered appropriation balances representing state money carry forward. Bond
13 proceeds that have not been expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the
14 bonds lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of general
15 obligation bonds.

16 **Sec. 8. Bonds authorized but not issued.** Any bonds authorized but not issued
17 within 5 years of ratification of this Act are deauthorized and may not be issued, except
18 that the Legislature may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period, extend
19 the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds for an additional amount of time not
20 to exceed 5 years.

21 **Sec. 9. Referendum for ratification; submission at election; form of**
22 **question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the State at
23 a statewide election held in the month of November following passage of this Act. The
24 municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns
25 and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election,
26 to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

27 "Do you favor a \$55,000,000 bond issue to implement existing plans for
28 weatherization of low-income housing, to provide funds for increasing
29 energy efficiencies in public and private sector structures and to provide
30 funds for education for the training of a future workforce?"

31 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question
32 and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square
33 below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and
34 declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of
35 State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall
36 review the returns. If a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of this Act, the
37 Governor shall proclaim the result without delay and this Act becomes effective 30 days
38 after the date of the proclamation.

39 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all
40 ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this
41 referendum.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

SUMMARY

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$55,000,000, will be used to support weatherization and other energy efficiency improvements for Maine homes, businesses and public buildings to save money, reduce dependence on increasingly scarce heating fuels, support health and comfort and protect the environment. Funds are also provided to expand the workforce for weatherization and energy efficiency services and other parts of a new green economy.