

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

Legislative Document

No. 1756

H.P. 1260

House of Representatives, January 30, 2014

**An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support the
Growth of and To Build Infrastructure for the Marine and
Biotechnology Sectors of the State's Economy**

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Speaker EVES of North Berwick.

Cosponsored by Senator BURNS of Washington and

Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, CASSIDY of Lubec, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor,

Senators: President ALFOND of Cumberland, KATZ of Kennebec, LANGLEY of Hancock,

VALENTINO of York.

1 jobs in the State's marine economy and related industries and interests through capital
2 investments in a shared marine research and resource vessel; infrastructure and
3 equipment to support the vessel and its statewide operations; expanded facilities
4 statewide to support collaboration and commercialization; and infrastructure and
5 equipment for experimental sea- and land-based sustainable aquaculture sites located
6 around the State.

7 Total \$15,000,000

8 Provides funds, to be matched by \$16,000,000 in other funds, to establish at the
9 Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor a center for biometric analysis using state-of-the-
10 art technologies to expand the State's research capabilities in the area of medical
11 analytics, make the State a global resource for precision medicine, improve the State's
12 capacity to attract and retain young professionals and facilitate additional grant
13 funding, private sector investment, job growth and economic activity in the State.

14 Total \$15,000,000

15 **Sec. A-6. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue.** Sections 1 to 5 do not
16 become effective unless the people of the State ratify the issuance of the bonds as set
17 forth in this Part.

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

23 **Sec. A-8. Bonds authorized but not issued.** Any bonds authorized but not
24 issued within 5 years of ratification of this Part are deauthorized and may not be issued,
25 except that the Legislature may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period,
26 extend the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds for an additional amount of
27 time not to exceed 5 years.

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

34 "Do you favor a \$30,000,000 bond issue to:

35 1. Provide \$15,000,000 in funds to establish a state center for marine
36 economy coordinated and managed by the University of New England in
37 partnership with public sector and private sector marine research centers
38 and marine industries throughout the State, including but not limited to

1 the Southern Maine Community College; the University of Maine at
2 Machias, Downeast Institute of Applied Marine Research and Education;
3 and the Cobscook Community Learning Center, to facilitate the growth
4 of business and commercial enterprises that create jobs in the State's
5 marine economy and related industries and interests through capital
6 investments in a shared marine research and resource vessel;
7 infrastructure and equipment to support the vessel and its statewide
8 operations; expanded facilities statewide to support collaboration and
9 commercialization; and infrastructure and equipment for experimental
10 sea- and land-based sustainable aquaculture sites located around the
11 State, to be matched by \$15,000,000 in private and public contributions;
12 and

13 2. Provide funds to establish at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor a
14 center for biometric analysis using state-of-the-art technologies to expand
15 the State's research capabilities in the area of medical analytics, make the
16 State a global resource for precision medicine, improve the State's
17 capacity to attract and retain young professionals and facilitate additional
18 grant funding, private sector investment, job growth and economic
19 activity in the State, to be matched by \$16,000,000 in private and public
20 contributions?"

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

29 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all
30 ballots, returns and copies of this Part necessary to carry out the purposes of this
31 referendum.

32 **PART B**

33 **Sec. B-1. Establishment of center for marine economy.** The Department of
34 Economic and Community Development shall oversee the disbursement of bond proceeds
35 and matching funds authorized pursuant to Part A in accordance with this section.

36 The department shall support the establishment of the Maine Center for the Marine
37 Economy, referred to in this Part as "the center," to be coordinated and managed by the
38 University of New England in partnership with public sector and private sector marine
39 research centers and marine industries throughout the State, including but not limited to
40 the Southern Maine Community College; the University of Maine at Machias, Downeast
41 Institute of Applied Marine Research and Education; and the Cobscook Community
42 Learning Center, to:

