

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 387

S.P. 155

In Senate, February 12, 2015

**An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support
Agricultural Enterprises and Encourage the Use of Local Farm
Products in Public Schools**

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
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator JOHNSON of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative HICKMAN of Winthrop and
Senators: DILL of Penobscot, MIRAMANT of Knox, Representatives: BEAVERS of South
Berwick, MAREAN of Hollis.

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 \$6,000,000 for the purposes described in section 5 of this Act. The
9 bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for a
10 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 from General Fund bond issue.**
27 The proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized under this Act must be expended as
28 designated in the following schedule under the direction and supervision of the agencies
29 and entities set forth in this section.

30 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

31 **Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund**

33 Provides funds for assistance to agricultural enterprises and for increasing the use of
34 local produce in public schools.

35
36 Total \$5,000,000

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

4

SUMMARY

5 The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$6,000,000, will be used to
6 provide funding for assistance to the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund for agricultural
7 enterprises and to the Local Produce Fund to encourage the use of local farm products in
8 public schools.