

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 924

H.P. 643

House of Representatives, March 17, 2015

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Enhance State Parks

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.
Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and
Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, MAKER of Calais,
MALABY of Hancock, MAREAN of Hollis, McCABE of Skowhegan, WHITE of Washburn,
Senator: KATZ of Kennebec.

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 \$5,190,000 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 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION**
31 **AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

32 **Bureau of Parks and Lands**

34 Provides funds to upgrade bathroom facilities, septic systems and water systems to
35 meet the latest standards.

36
37 Total \$1,445,000

1	Provides funds to upgrade park headquarters and the public fee collections and visitor	
2	welcoming areas to better serve the public and comply with federal Americans with	
3	Disabilities Act standards.	
4		
5	Total	\$145,000
6	Provides funds for infrastructure conservation for historic sites at Katahdin Iron	
7	Works, Fort Knox and Fort Popham that need masonry repairs and conservation and	
8	rehabilitation work.	
9		
10	Total	\$400,000
11	Provides funds to upgrade pier and docking facilities that provide recreational access	
12	to various coastal and island parks and historic sites.	
13		
14	Total	\$150,000
15	Provides funds for pavement overlay of entrance and access roads in parks that	
16	support traffic and that are overdue for paving and affect public safety.	
17		
18	Total	\$650,000
19	Provides funds to upgrade water supply, water storage and water distribution systems	
20	in parks to comply with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and to maintain public	
21	safety and access to potable water.	
22		
23	Total	\$1,150,000
24	Provides funds for water containment structures, including dams and locks, in the	
25	Allagash Wilderness Waterway and at Songo Lock at Sebago Lake State Park to	
26	ensure continued operation, protect public safety and address fisheries concerns.	
27		
28	Total	\$650,000
29	Provides funds for system-wide handicapped access improvements to parks to remain	
30	in compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for	
31	outdoor recreation facilities.	
32		
33	Total	\$650,000

1 Provides funds to upgrade or replace older playgrounds in the parks with newer and
2 federally compliant facilities to better and more safely serve the public need.

3

4 Total \$300,000

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

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

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

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

24 "Do you favor a \$5,190,000 bond issue to enhance state parks and ensure
25 compliance with federal law by providing upgrades and safety
26 improvements to bathroom facilities, septic systems, entry gates, historic
27 sites and structures, piers and docks, park roads, water supply and
28 distribution systems, dams and locks, handicapped access areas and
29 playgrounds?"

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

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

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SUMMARY

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,190,000, will be used to enhance state parks by providing funds for upgrades and safety improvements, and ensuring compliance with federal laws, for bathroom facilities, septic systems, entry gates, historic sites and structures, piers and docks, park roads, water supply and distribution systems, dams and locks, handicapped access areas and playgrounds.