

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 367

S.P. 174

In Senate, January 31, 2023

**An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues to Improve
Highways, Bridges and Nonhighway Modes of Transportation**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.
Cosponsored by Representative: WHITE of Waterville.

1 **Sec. B-4. Interest and debt retirement.** The Treasurer of State shall pay interest
2 due or accruing on any bonds issued under this Part and all sums coming due for payment
3 of bonds at maturity.

4 **Sec. B-5. Disbursement of bond proceeds from General Fund bond issue.**
5 The proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized under this Part must be expended as
6 designated in the following schedule under the direction and supervision of the agencies
7 and entities set forth in this section.

8 **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

9 Provides \$85,000,000 for improvements to roads and bridges and \$15,000,000 for
10 nonhighway modes of transportation.

11 Total \$100,000,000

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

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

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

25 **Sec. B-9. Referendum for ratification; submission at election; form of**
26 **question; effective date.** This Part must be submitted to the legal voters of the State at
27 a statewide election held in the month of November 2024. The municipal officers of this
28 State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet,
29 in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance
30 or rejection of this Part by voting on the following question:

31 "Do you favor a \$100,000,000 bond issue for improvements to roads and
32 bridges and nonhighway modes of transportation?"

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

