

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2234

H.P. 1510

House of Representatives, March 12, 2026

An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Vinalhaven Water District

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative EATON of Deer Isle. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** a new water main is needed to allow the Vinalhaven Water District to
4 protect the health of residents served by the district; and

5 **Whereas,** other improvements in the water system are urgently needed to bring the
6 district into compliance with state standards; and

7 **Whereas,** the needed funds to complete these projects would exceed the current
8 borrowing capacity of the district; and

9 **Whereas,** the district needs an immediate increase in its borrowing authority in order
10 to timely schedule the needed improvements; and

11 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
12 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
13 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
14 therefore,

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

16 **Sec. 1. P&SL 1977, c. 99, §12,** as repealed and replaced by P&SL 2001, c. 21, §5,
17 is amended to read:

18 **Sec. 12. Debt limit.** For accomplishing the purposes of this Act, and for any other
19 expenses that may be necessary for the carrying out of those purposes, the district, through
20 its trustees, is authorized to borrow money temporarily and to issue for the money its
21 negotiable notes; and for the purpose of renewing and refunding the indebtedness created,
22 of paying any necessary expenses and liabilities incurred under the provisions of this Act,
23 including organizational and other necessary expenses and liabilities, whether incurred by
24 the district or the municipality, the district being authorized to reimburse the municipality
25 for any such expenses incurred by it, and in acquiring properties, paying damages, laying
26 pipes, mains, aqueducts and conduits, constructing, maintaining and operating a water plant
27 or system and making renewals, additions, extensions and improvements to the same, and
28 to cover interest payments during the period of construction, the district, through its
29 trustees, is also authorized to issue, from time to time, bonds, notes or other evidences of
30 indebtedness of the district in one series or in separate series and to make subsequent
31 renewals of the bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness, the amount or amounts,
32 not exceeding the sum of ~~\$1,500,000~~ \$4,000,000 outstanding at any one time, bearing
33 interest at such rate or rates, and having such terms and provisions as the trustees determine;
34 except that, in the case of a vote by the trustees to authorize bonds or notes to pay for the
35 acquisition of property, for the cost of a water system or part of a water system, for renewal
36 or additions or for other improvements in the nature of capital costs, the estimated cost of
37 which, singly or in the aggregate included in any one financing is \$30,000 or more, or for
38 renewing or refunding existing indebtedness, notice of the proposed debt and of the general
39 purpose or purposes for which it was authorized must be given by the clerk by publication
40 at least once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of Vinalhaven.

41 Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the district, through its trustees,
42 may issue bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness in amounts exceeding
43 ~~\$1,500,000~~ \$4,000,000 at any one time if a greater debt limit is established by referendum

1 in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 6413. The district may
2 not have outstanding at any one time bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness in
3 amounts exceeding any debt limit established by referendum in accordance with Title 35-A,
4 section 6413.

5 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
6 takes effect when approved.

7 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill increases the debt limit of the Vinalhaven Water District from \$1,500,000 to
9 \$4,000,000.