

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - T H I R D   L E G I S L A T U R E

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 67**

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H. P. 79

House of Representatives, January 16, 1947.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Collins of Caribou.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-SEVEN

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**RESOLVE, in Favor of the University of Maine for General Operations.**

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**Additional appropriation for University of Maine. Resolved:** That in order to provide funds additional to the regular one mill tax appropriation for general operations, and for the same purposes, there be and hereby is appropriated for the University of Maine the sum of \$350,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1948, and the sum of \$350,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

In order to provide educational facilities to meet in part the demand from veterans seeking college education, the University of Maine has increased its enrollment from about 2,100 students in 1941 to about 4,000 at the end of 1946. Of this number, about 2,800 are veterans, about 800 of these veterans being at The Brunswick Campus. The plan is to move the 800 from Brunswick to Orono as soon as housing becomes available by completion of dormitories now under construction at Orono. It is hoped that this move may be made in the fall of 1947.

This is in accordance with the plan presented at the special session of the Ninety-second Legislature, as to housing. That Legislature made an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the dormitories, and authorized the University to borrow up to \$1,000,000 additional for the same purpose. The University has already borrowed \$500,000 and has arranged to borrow the remainder, all by notes maturing \$100,000 a year from December 1947 to December 1956 at a rate of interest of 1 1/3%.

The same Legislature appropriated \$400,000, to be added to funds already available, for the construction of a Plant Science Building and an Engineering Building. This appropriation having been included in the bonus-bond issue-appropriation-tax measures which were submitted to the people by referendum and defeated, the University received no funds for this purpose. The need for these buildings, recognized before the war, is accentuated by the existing congestion on the Orono campus, and they should be built as soon as possible after funds are available. Even if the \$400,000 to be requested for this purpose is appropriated, it is not certain that there will be enough money available for construction of these two buildings according to original plans.

It is still too early to make a reliable estimate of the demand for admissions next fall. An important unknown factor is the action to be taken by Congress with respect to the draft of men aged 18 and 19. It seems likely, however, that the demand may exceed greatly the 4,000 maximum now established. The University lacks funds and will lack facilities to provide for more than 4,000 on the Orono campus. The Trustees have voted that total enrollment must not exceed 4,000, except by legislative authority. An enrollment over 4,000 can be handled only by continuing the operation at Brunswick, and the University cannot provide for many more students at Brunswick until those now there can be moved to Orono into the dormitories now under construction. These dormitories may not be ready for occupancy at the opening of the college year next fall.

In the opinion of the Trustees, the decision with respect to continued operation at Brunswick should be made by the Legislature. In order to afford a basis for this decision a special resolve calling for an appropriation will be introduced. With respect to Brunswick, the Trustees will be guided by the action taken by the Legislature on this resolve.

The expenses of expansion, combined with rising costs and the necessity for increased salaries and wages, have resulted in the exhaustion of University reserve funds, and in the impairment of its working capital. Tuition has been increased to \$175 for Maine students and to \$300 for out-of-state students. All veteran students at Orono under the G. I. Bill are charged \$300, which has been paid by the Federal Government; but we are now advised that the Federal Government will change this tuition allowance from a flat figure to a formula based on partial costs. We cannot tell what this change will mean in dollars, but preliminary estimates indicate that it may be greatly to the disadvantage of the University. It should be remembered in any consideration of the future that the gradual shifting of students from G. I. tuition status to civilian tuition status will result over the next two or three years in a large decrease in income from tuition, and that the loss in revenue from this source probably cannot be simultaneously off-set by reduced expenses of operation.

In view of the existing uncertainties, the Trustees cannot be sure that the appropriations to be requested of the Ninety-third Legislature will be adequate if made. The amounts requested should be regarded as minimum essentials for urgent needs. If the Legislature believes that provisions should now be made in contemplation of a probable normal enrollment of more than 2,500 students in 1950, the established policy of support should be revised by an increase in the mill tax, so that the increased support now asked as an emergency measure will be made permanent and continuing.

In summary the Trustees' requests are:

1. For the regular mill tax appropriation.
2. For a special additional appropriation of \$350,000 for each of the two fiscal years of the 1947-49 biennium.
3. For a special appropriation of \$400,000 for the Plant Science Building and the Engineering Building.
4. For a special appropriation of \$150,000 for each fiscal year of the biennium 1947-49 during which the Legislature wants the Brunswick operation to continue.