

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 450

S. P. 171

In Senate, February 6, 1957.

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

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Sinclair of Somerset.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-SEVEN

RESOLVE, Charging off Funds Advanced to Maine State Office Building Authority.

Funds; charged off. Resolved: That the State Controller be, and hereby is, authorized to charge off \$286,045.04, which was advanced to the Maine State Office Building Authority in accordance with chapter 76 of the private and special laws of 1941, as amended by chapter 51 of the private and special laws of 1945.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Maine State Office Building Authority was created by chapter 76 of the private and special laws of 1941, the purpose of which was, as an agency of the State of Maine, to acquire land and erect an office building or an addition to the State House. The Building Authority was authorized to issue notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness in order to procure funds to carry out the purposes of the act. The act provided that until the Building Authority was able to borrow money, expenses incurred by the Authority could be paid out of the General Fund of the State on warrants drawn by the Governor and Council, but when funds came into the hands of the Authority the State should be reimbursed for all payments made under this provision.

Under the provisions of this act, \$286,045.04 was paid from the General Fund of the State on behalf of the Authority for cost of land acquired, architect's fees and other expenses and that amount was charged to the Office Building Authority.

By a subsequent advisory opinion of the Supreme Court the Office Building Act was found to be unconstitutional and in consequence a reserve of one hundred percent was provided to offset the amount already advanced.

An appropriation of \$3,000,000 from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund was made by chapter 175, private and special laws of 1953 for the purpose of constructing and equipping additional State office facilities in Augusta. This act provided, in part, that the Office Building Authority should turn over to the State all of its real estate, architectural sketches, drawings, designs, and all other property. No provisions were included for the disposition of the \$286,045.04, advanced from the General Fund to the Authority in acquiring the property. The purpose of this resolve is to authorize the State Controller to clear the records relating to the amount advanced. Its passage will in no way affect the financial status of the General Fund because of the one hundred percent reserve previously provided.