

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

# ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

One Hundred and Second Legislature

OF THE

# STATE OF MAINE

Published by the Director of Legislative Research in accordance with  
the Revised Statutes of 1964, Title 3, Section 164, Subsection 6.

---

KENNEBEC JOURNAL

AUGUSTA, MAINE

1965

---

---

Messages  
of  
Governor John H. Reed  
to the  
Special Sessions  
One Hundred First Legislature  
January 6-17, 1964  
September 28-30, 1964

---

---

**MESSAGE OF JOHN H. REED, GOVERNOR OF MAINE, TO THE  
JOINT CONVENTION OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST  
LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MAINE**

September 28, 1964

Mr. President and Members of the 101st Legislature:

I am pleased today to welcome you back to the Capitol for the purposes of this Second Special Session. I have always enjoyed my association with members of this Legislature and I hope to have an opportunity to meet all of you personally during the next few days.

The season of autumn has emblazoned its glory across the Maine countryside once again. Its color and climate have quickened the pace of life in the Pine Tree State.

Many of you are engaged in gathering the bounties of another rich harvest. Some of you face pressing business commitments. Most of you are deeply involved with the exciting and demanding activities of this election year.

All of you, however, by virtue of your office, recognize your first responsibility to the people of Maine. They appreciate, as do I, your taking time from your personal pursuits to come to Augusta for this Special Session.

In my official call to you I listed several matters of an emergency nature facing the State. I shall now discuss each with you briefly.

**Enactment of Revised Statutes**

My decision to request you to convene again this year was determined by the necessity for enactment of the Revised Statutes of 1964.

I recommend that you accept the Legislative Committee's report on the Revision of the Maine Statutes. The Committee has made an excellent revision, well indexed and annotated, and is deserving of our highest compliments.

**Pollution Abatement Bond Issue**

At the last Special Session this Legislature created an interim committee to study and report on contributions to be made by the State to the expense of pollution abatement construction programs and methods of financing such contributions.

Your committee has carried out its assignment diligently and has rendered a commendable report. Their appraisal of the situation is a realistic one and merits your careful attention.

The State of Maine, for more than 20 years, has been engaged in a pollution control and elimination program conducted by the Water Improvement Commission. Considerable progress has been made by this and preceding Legislatures in the classification of waters with reasonable time schedules established for compliance.

To assist the municipalities in meeting the burden of cost for the construction of pollution abatement facilities the State now matches dollar-for-dollar a 30 per cent contribution by the Federal government. The remaining 40 per cent of the total must be provided at the local level.

Up to this time, the State has contributed matching funds in the amount of \$3.7 million dollars from General Fund revenue sources.

Your committee estimates that the total cost of implementing the State's pollution abatement program over the next 20 years will approximate \$97 million dollars. Of the total amount the sum to be contributed by the State in grants-in-aid would be approximately \$25 million dollars.

Each biennium brings new demands upon our General Fund revenue sources and surpluses. This Legislature is well aware of the heavy obligations in such fields as education and welfare.

I believe it advisable, therefore, for the State to turn to the method of bond financing for its pollution abatement program. This program is basically one of capital construction of a long-term nature. Maine Legislatures in the past have found bond financing to be a reasonable method for providing funds for the construction of highways, bridges and college buildings.

I recommend the enactment of enabling legislation to authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the amount of \$25 million dollars for the construction of pollution abatement facilities. Such authorization will permit the State to complete its long-term pollution abatement program which is of great importance to the future health and economic well-being of our people.

Concurrently, I propose that the Legislature retain the right to determine each biennium the amount to be allocated from the issuance of bonds to meet the State's share of the matching costs. This would, in my opinion, be a desirable and reasonable stipulation to the expenditure of such funds.

Enactment of this legislation now will permit the submission of a referendum to the voters for ratification at the General Election on November 3.

The need for legislative action is made even more urgent by the fact that approximately \$700,000 in Federal funds will lapse in December, 1964, unless an equal amount of State money is provided.

I firmly believe that enactment of this bond issue will provide the State a feasible method of meeting its obligations to an excellent long-term program designed to eliminate a problem of long-standing.

#### **Maine-New Hampshire Bridge Improvement**

I recommend that this Legislature consider an act to enable the Maine-New Hampshire Interstate Bridge Authority to install a movable draw span on the lower deck level of the Piscataqua River Bridge at a cost not exceeding \$400,000. The Authority has sufficient funds to finance this project.

Such a draw span would permit opening the lower level of the bridge to harbor traffic without interfering with the passage of vehicles on the upper, or highway level. Enactment of this legislation now and similar action by the New Hampshire General Court at its next session will permit the installation of the span prior to the heavy summer traffic season of 1965.

### School Administrative Districts

I direct your attention to two School Administrative District matters and recommend the enactment of legislation to authorize these Districts to issue bonds for school construction purposes.

Authorization is sought by School Administrative District No. 31 to issue bonds in the amount of \$300,000 to construct a gymnasium, cafeteria and shop facilities at the site of the District High School in Howland.

School Administrative District No. 34 seeks to issue bonds in the amount of \$1,100,000 to construct a new high school in Belfast and a new elementary school in Searsmont.

Enactment of these legislative requests will facilitate the early construction of these much needed buildings.

In addition, I recommend that you enact legislation authorizing the Town of Milbridge and other surrounding towns to form a School Administrative District.

### Conveying Land to Town of Raymond

I also propose that you enact legislation permitting the Attorney General to convey certain land belonging to the State to the Town of Raymond. This request is valid since this land is not being utilized by the State and is ideally situated for the construction of an urgently needed fire station in that community.

### District Courts

I direct your attention to a matter concerning the District Court system. The Judicial Council of Maine has made a study of ways to equalize the case load of the new District Court.

It now appears advisable to make certain geographical changes in the Districts as they were constituted originally by the Legislature. It would also be most desirable to accomplish these changes before the courts in these Districts are activated. Appropriate legislation will be presented to accomplish the desired adjustments.

### Constitutional Commission

I ask you to give consideration now to the reactivation of the Maine Constitutional Commission which was established by the 100th Legislature. The Constitutional Commission rendered valuable service to the State in the recommendations it presented to the Legislature for the reapportionment of the House of Representatives.

In view of the recent decision by the Supreme Court of the United States relative to the composition of the Senates of the States, it would seem advisable to study the apportionment question in Maine with a view toward any possible action which may be required of the 102nd Legislature.

We are fortunate in having an experienced group for such study in our State and I recommend its reactivation.

### Financial Status of the State

I am pleased to report to you that the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund on July 1, 1964 was \$3,658,000. Revenues exceeded estimates by \$2.3 million dollars and unexpended departmental balances of \$1.4 million dollars were lapsed at the end of the fiscal year.

A conservative approach for estimating revenue and a concerted attempt to effect greater economy in administration, together with a continuing favorable economic climate have resulted in the surplus.

The need for revenue by the 102nd Legislature will be a serious problem. It is my recommendation, therefore, that only minor appropriations be made at this time.

### Conclusion

I have presented to you the recommendations included in the call for this Special Session. Your legislative leaders are in agreement with me that the business of a Special Session should be limited to that of an emergency nature. I hope you agree with us.

My message to you today has been brief. I hope that it will set the tone for the action you will take. We recognize the purposes for which this Special Session has been called and by completing our tasks swiftly and efficiently the best interests of the State will be served.

In all probability this will be the last occasion I shall address you and I wish to take this opportunity to commend you for your service to the people of Maine.

As Governor, I shall look back with pride on the accomplishments we have made together for our State. They could not have been possible without your cooperation and that of the dedicated department heads of my administration and our loyal state employees.

Let us go forward now—in these next few days—in resolute determination to do the very best we possibly can for those we serve—the people of our beloved State of Maine.

John H. Reed  
Governor of Maine