

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**  
AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
AT THE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

January 4, 1978 to April 6, 1978

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

(No laws enacted)

September 6, 1978 to September 15, 1978

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

October 18, 1978

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

December 6, 1978

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED, TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

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PRIVATE AND SPECIAL LAWS  
OF THE

**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED AT THE

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

of the

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

January 4, 1978 to April 6, 1978

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and private agencies as appropriate. Each pilot project shall establish a method to identify unserved and underserved preschool handicapped children and develop services for those children.

**Sec. 5. Evaluation.** Continuous evaluation of the pilot projects shall be required and shall be an integral part of each pilot project. The committee shall determine the expected outcome goals of the pilot projects and shall cause to be developed an evaluation design to determine the success of the pilot projects.

The 3 commissioners shall present to the Legislature an interim report prior to December 15, 1978. This report shall provide an assessment of the planning efforts of the State Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Preschool Handicapped Children. In addition, this report shall contain any recommendations, including legislation for the continuation or expansion of the pilot projects.

The 3 commissioners shall also present to the Legislature a final report prior to December 15, 1979. This report shall provide an evaluation summary of the pilot projects and recommendations, including legislation, necessary to initiate a service delivery system with an implementation schedule to begin July 1, 1980.

**Sec. 6. Appropriation.** The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act:

	1978-79
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES,	
DEPARTMENT OF	
All Other	\$150,000

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

Effective March 30, 1978

## CHAPTER 105

### AN ACT Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds by the Town of Houlton to Acquire Certain Assets of Ricker College.

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

Whereas, Ricker College, a corporation created by the private and special laws of 1847, chapter 10, has suffered severe financial problems and is currently operating under the jurisdiction of the courts of the United States of America pursuant to the Federal Bankruptcy Act and may cease operations in whole or in

part if the financial relief provided by this Act is not made immediately available;  
and

Whereas, Ricker College performs important higher educational services which cannot be conveniently and effectively replaced; and

Whereas, Ricker College is a major employer in the Town of Houlton whose termination would cause serious unemployment and other economic dislocations;  
and

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

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

**Sec. 1.** P&SL 1847, c. 10, as last amended by P&SL 1967, c. 74, § 1, is further amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

**Ricker College may agree with the Town of Houlton concerning the manner and method of selecting persons to fill vacancies in the number of corporators and in any board of trustees, board of directors or other managing or controlling board, howsoever designated, and as a part of and in order to implement such an agreement the number of corporators or any such board may be increased by such number as such agreement may require.**

**Sec. 2. Declaration of necessity.** It is found and declared that, for the benefit of the people of the State, the provision and improvement of the higher education and the protection of the economy and the creation of employment, it is essential that Ricker College be provided with means to discharge its indebtedness, provide for its physical plant and continue its existence and operations as an institution of higher education; and that it is the purpose of this Act to provide a measure of assistance to Ricker College which is sorely needed to enable it to accomplish its purposes, all to the public benefit and good; and the exercise of the powers, to the extent and manner provided in this Act, is declared the exercise of an essential governmental function and the expenditure of public funds provided hereby is declared to be for a public purpose.

**Sec. 3. Conveyance of property.** Ricker College, a corporation created by the private and special laws of 1847, chapter 10, is hereby authorized and empowered to convey, transfer and assign to the Town of Houlton all property and assets of every nature and description owned or held by it, real and personal, tangible and intangible, or any part thereof, and the Town of Houlton is authorized and empowered to purchase or otherwise receive and hold any and all such property on such terms and conditions as it and Ricker College may determine; and the Town of Houlton may contract and agree with Ricker College in any way concerning the operation of Ricker College or using any and all such property.

**Sec. 4. Borrowing authority.** To raise the purchase price of the property referred to in section 3, the Town of Houlton may borrow money in an amount not to exceed \$1,250,000 and may issue bonds or notes of the town therefor. The authorization and issuance of these debts and the bonds or notes representative thereof shall in all respects be subject to the Revised Statutes, Title 30, section 5152, and to the charter of the Town of Houlton, except that bonds may be issued to mature in not more than 40 years from the date of their issuance.

**Effective date; acceptance.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved for the purpose of submitting it to Ricker College and the Town of Houlton for acceptance, and upon acceptance it shall take full effect. Acceptance by Ricker College shall be by majority vote of its governing board and acceptance by the Town of Houlton shall be by majority vote of the voters present and voting at a referendum election held in accordance with the provisions of the town charter. The results shall not be valid unless 20% of the registered voters participate in the election.

Effective March 30, 1978 Unless otherwise indicated

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## CHAPTER 106

### AN ACT to Authorize a Self-liquidating Bond Issue in the Amount of \$2,100,000 to Establish a Dormitory at Northern Maine Vocational-Technical Institute.

**Preamble.** Two-thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in accordance with the Maine Constitution, Article IX, Section 14, authorize the issuance of self-liquidating bonds on behalf of the State of Maine to establish a dormitory at Northern Maine Vocational-Technical Institute at Presque Isle.

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

**Sec. 1. Authorization of bond issued for construction of student housing.** The cost of constructing the dormitory at Northern Maine Vocational-Technical Institute, including any expenses incurred in financing thereof, shall be taken and appropriated from the proceeds of bonds issued under the authority of this Act.

**Sec. 2. Issue of self-liquidating bonds to provide for construction.** The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction of the Governor, to issue from time to time serial coupon bonds in the name and behalf of the State to an amount not exceeding \$2,100,000 for the purpose of raising funds to provide for construction pursuant to this Act. These bonds shall be general obligations of the