

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 3, 1979 to June 15, 1979

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

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Kennebec Journal  
Augusta, Maine  
1979

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**PRIVATE AND  
SPECIAL LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**  
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## CHAPTER 60

H. P. 908 — L. D. 1132

### AN ACT to Authorize a Bond Issue in the Amount of \$2,500,000 for Energy Conservation Improvements for Local Government Buildings.

**Preamble:** Two-thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in accordance with the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 14, to authorize the issuance of bonds on behalf of the State of Maine to provide funds for energy conservation improvements for local government buildings.

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

**Sec. 1. Definitions.** As used in this Act, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings.

**1. Energy conservation improvements.** “Energy conservation improvements” means improvements made to a building to increase energy efficiency. These improvements include, but are not limited to, installation of storm windows, insulation and updating of heating, ventilation, electrical and lighting systems.

**2. Energy efficiency survey.** “Energy efficiency surveys” means comprehensive studies undertaken under the supervision of the Office of Energy Resources to determine the type of improvements that can be applied to a building in order to decrease the energy operating cost of that building. Such a survey includes a classification of no cost, low cost and major cost items and also includes a determination of the cost effectiveness of each of the recommended improvements.

**3. Local government buildings.** “Local government buildings” means buildings owned by a city, town, county or plantation, not including schools and hospitals which are eligible for financial assistance under the National Energy Conservation Policy Act of 1978, PL 95-619.

**Sec. 2. The issue of bonds to provide funds for energy conservation improvements to local government buildings.** 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 on behalf of the State to an amount not exceeding \$2,500,000 for the purpose of raising funds to provide for energy conservation improvements to local government buildings, as authorized by section 8. These bonds shall be deemed a pledge of the faith and credit of the State. These bonds

shall not run for a longer period than 5 years from the date of the original issue thereof. Any issuance of bonds may contain a call feature at the discretion of the Treasurer of State with the approval of the Governor.

**Sec. 3. Records of bonds issued to be kept by State Auditor and Treasurer of State.** The State Auditor shall keep an account of such bonds, showing the number and amount of each, the date of countersigning, the date when payable and the date of delivery thereof to the Treasurer of State, who shall keep an account of each bond, showing the number thereof, the name of the person to whom sold, the amount received for the same, the date of sale and the date when payable.

**Sec. 4. Sale, how negotiated; proceeds appropriated.** The Treasurer of State may negotiate the sale of such bonds by direction of the Governor, but no such bond shall be loaned, pledged or hypothecated in behalf of the State. The proceeds of sales of such bonds, which shall be held by the Treasurer of State, are paid by him upon warrants drawn by the Governor, are appropriated to be used solely for the purposes set forth in this Act. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the projects listed in section 8 shall lapse to the debt service account established for the retirement of these bonds.

**Sec. 5. Interest and debt retirement.** Interest due or accruing upon any bonds issued under this Act and all sums coming due for payment of bonds at maturity shall be paid by the Treasurer of State.

**Sec. 6. Disbursements of bond proceeds.** The proceeds of such bonds shall be expended under the direction and supervision of the Director of the Office of Energy Resources. The Office of Energy Resources shall keep records of the energy savings of all projects funded under this Act. This record shall be a public record.

**Sec. 7. Eligibility requirements.** Funds may be used for energy conservation improvements for local government buildings, except that no funds shall be used for energy conservation improvements on buildings completed after April 20, 1977, or on schools or hospitals eligible for assistance under Title III, Part 1 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act of 1978, PL 95-619.

**Sec. 8. Allocation of funds from bond issue.** Funds shall be disbursed on the basis of 50% state matching funds in accordance with the results of energy efficiency surveys and with the approval of the Director of the Office of Energy Resources. The Office of Energy Resources shall develop and, after public review, shall implement a plan for the distribution of funds available under the bond issue. The remaining 50% of the cost shall be borne by the participating local government unit and will not be eligible for state reimbursement.

**Sec. 9. Retroactive reimbursement.** Energy conservation improvements to local government buildings undertaken after June 1, 1977, may be considered reimbursable under the provision of this Act, as determined by the Director of the

Office of Energy Resources, provided that the following criteria are met:

- A. The improvements were undertaken specifically for energy conservation; and
- B. The buildings to which the energy conservation improvements were made would be eligible for energy conservation improvements under this Act, and the improvements were high priority measures as determined by the Director of the Office of Energy Resources.

**Sec. 10. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue.** Sections 1 to 9 of this Act shall not become effective unless and until the people of the State shall have ratified the issuance of bonds as set forth in this Act.

**Sec. 11. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at special statewide election; effective date.** This Act shall be submitted to the legal voters of the State of Maine at a special statewide election to be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following passage of this Act. The city aldermen, town selectmen and plantation assessors of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

“Shall a bond issue be ratified in the Amount of \$2,500,000 for energy conservation improvements for local government buildings?”

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below the word “Yes” or “No.” The ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes are in favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay, and the Act shall become effective 30 days after the date of the proclamation.

The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

Approved by the Governor June 25, 1979

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## CHAPTER 61

H. P. 1206 — L. D. 1485

**AN ACT to Implement a Plan for the Prevention and Treatment of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse.**