

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
STATE GOVERNMENT  
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

Department to use a couple of rooms in the building. In addition, the Department has offered to sell the building to the Town of Wells and allow the Town to pay the just value price over a 5 or 6 year period (from revenue sharing funds of roughly \$200,000).

According to the Department of Finance and Administration the State planned to sell the building (through an agent) in the fall of 1984, and that there are a number of interested buyers willing to pay the just value price. The Department, however, at the request of several legislators, has delayed any action in order for the State Legislature to make a decision with respect to this property.

The bill was withdrawn in favor of another bill, LD 467.

LD:

331

AN ACT TO PREVENT COMBINING MORE THAN ONE  
BOND ISSUE SUBJECT IN A SINGLE BOND ISSUE  
BILL

WEBSTER C  
SPOUL  
HICHBORN  
WENTWORTH

ONTP

HOUSE Accepted Committee Report  
SENATE Accepted Committee Report  
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 331, which is the same bill as LD 338 presented to the Committee on State Government during the First Regular Session of the 111th Legislature, proposes that every project for which bonds are proposed to be issued and to be approved by the voters shall be submitted to the voters as a single question. The bill prohibits combining different projects into a single question for voter approval unless the projects are very closely related.

The types of projects and bonds that are (excluded) not governed by the prohibitions in the bill include:

- A. Bonds pledging the faith and credit of the State to guarantee loans by the Finance Authority of Maine;
- B. Bonds issued by the Maine School Building Authority;
- C. Bonds not exceeding \$1,000,000 in total, to insure mortgage loans for the construction and rehabilitation of Indian housing of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Indian tribes;
- D. Bonds pledging the faith and credit of the State to guarantee loans under the Maine Veterans Small Business Loan Program; and

E. Industrial Revenue bonds (FAME, MSHA).

The types of bonds that are included in this bill include:

- A. Highway and bridge construction bonds;
- B. Environmental Protection Project bonds;
- C. Economic Development Project bonds;
- D. Building Constructions bonds (court houses, prisons, etc.).

The purpose of the bill is to require each project to stand on the own merit for voter scrutiny. A very popular project could not be used to obtain approval for special interest and unpopular projects. In other words, "pork-barrel" bond projects would be required to obtain voter approval and could not "hide" under the coat-tails of a necessary project.

The arguments presented against this proposed statutory requirement included:

- A. The Legislature currently has the authority to present bond questions to voters that contain only 1 project;
- B. A Legislature cannot bind future legislatures with respect to legislative policies and procedures; and
- C. The adverse effect on projects of small municipalities, particularly in rural areas. According to this argument, projects proposed for larger metropolitan areas or regions will fare better than projects proposed in sparsely populated areas.

LD:	377	AN ACT TO AMEND THE MAINE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT TO REQUIRE THE DESIGNATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE STATUTES AND REGULATIONS	HICHENS BOUTILIER BROWN L
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OTP-AM	HOUSE	Enacted	PUBLIC
	SENATE	Enacted	CH # 77
	GOV	SIGNED	

S-20	CA		H	S
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SUMMARY:

LD 377 proposed to add requirements with respect to agencies and the adoption of rules. The bill proposed that whenever an agency proposes or adopts a rule, the agency would be required to indicate, for the public and the "affected population," the state or federal law or regulation on which the rule is based. In addition, the