



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 466

H.P. 342

House of Representatives, February 16, 2021

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support a Climate Center at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford.

1 lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of general
2 obligation bonds.

3 **Sec. 8. Bonds authorized but not issued.** Any bonds authorized but not issued
4 within 5 years of ratification of this Act are deauthorized and may not be issued, except
5 that the Legislature may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period, extend
6 the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds for an additional amount of time not
7 to exceed 5 years.

8 **Sec. 9. Referendum for ratification; submission at election; form of**
9 **question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the State at
10 a statewide election held in the month of November following passage of this Act. The
11 municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns
12 and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election,
13 to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

14 "Do you favor a \$16,000,000 bond issue to complete the design,
15 engineering and construction of a climate center at the Gulf of Maine
16 Research Institute to support Maine communities and the State in the
17 development and funding of climate adaptation plans, to support improved
18 fisheries management and aquaculture development and to advise seafood
19 businesses in the pursuit of opportunities and the navigation of challenges
20 arising from climate change?"

21 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question
22 and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square
23 below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared
24 in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in
25 the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the
26 returns. If a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of this Act, the Governor shall
27 proclaim the result without delay and this Act becomes effective 30 days after the date of
28 the proclamation.

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

32 SUMMARY

33 The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$16,000,000, will be used to
34 complete the design, engineering and construction of a climate center at the Gulf of Maine
35 Research Institute to support Maine communities and the State in the development and
36 funding of climate adaptation plans, to support improved fisheries management and
37 aquaculture development and to advise seafood businesses in the pursuit of opportunities
38 and the navigation of challenges arising from climate change.