

CHAPTER 417-A

MAINE EDUCATIONAL LOAN PROGRAM

§11411. Maine Educational Loan Program

There is established the Maine Educational Loan Program, referred to in this chapter as "the program" and administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [PL 2015, c. 170, §8 (NEW); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §8 (RPR). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11412. Declaration of necessity and purpose

The Legislature declares that there is a need to provide additional assistance for higher education for residents and inhabitants of this State; the cost of higher education is increasing; assistance to higher education, including recipients and providers of higher education, will benefit the people of this State, enhance their welfare and increase their commerce and economic prosperity; it is the purpose of this chapter to provide assistance to students or the families of students who are residents of this State attending institutions of higher education within or outside of this State, to students and the families of students attending institutions of higher education within this State and to institutions of higher education within this State; the assistance provided by this chapter is intended in part to supplement federal guaranteed higher education loan programs, other student loan programs, grant programs, scholarship programs, programs assisting institutions of higher education and other means of assisting students, families of students and institutions of higher education; and the exercise of the powers to the extent and in the manner provided in this chapter is the exercise of an essential governmental function. [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).

§11413. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

1. Authority. "Authority" means the Finance Authority of Maine, including in its capacity as successor to the Maine Educational Loan Authority and the Finance Authority of Maine's successors or assigns.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §9 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

2. Authority loans. "Authority loans" means loans made under this chapter by the authority to institutions of higher education, students or other persons for the purpose of funding, financing or acquiring education loans.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §9 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

3. Bonds. "Bonds" includes bonds, notes, refunding bonds, commercial paper, pass-through instruments or any other evidences of obligations of the authority issued under this chapter.

[PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

4. Borrower. "Borrower" means a student who has received an education loan or any parent who has received or agreed to repay an education loan under this chapter.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §9 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

5. Code. "Code" means the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the regulations to that Code.

[PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

6. Cost of attendance. "Cost of attendance" means the tuition and fees applicable to a student, together with an estimate of other expenses reasonably related to cost of attendance at an institution, including, without limitation, the cost of room and board, transportation, books and supplies.

[PL 1989, c. 502, Pt. A, §59 (AMD).]

7. Default insurance. "Default insurance" means insurance that insures authority loans or bonds made or issued under this chapter against default.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §10 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

8. Default Reserve Fund. "Default Reserve Fund" means a fund established by the authority for the purpose of securing authority loans or bonds made or issued under this chapter.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §10 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

9. Education loan. "Education loan" means a loan made under this chapter that is made by the authority or by, or on behalf of, an institution to a student or to parents of a student, or both, in amounts not in excess of the maximum amounts specified by the authority to finance a part or all of the student's cost of attendance at an institution. An education loan constitutes an authority loan.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §11 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

10. Education loan series portfolio. "Education loan series portfolio" means all education loans made by a specific institution that are funded from or acquired by the proceeds of an authority loan to the institution of higher education out of the proceeds of a related specific bond issue through the authority under this chapter.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §12 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

11. Institution. "Institution" or "institution of higher education" means any public or private nonprofit educational institution within the State, any public or private nonprofit educational institution outside of the State which is attended by residents of the State, any proprietary educational institution within the State for which loan guarantee services are readily and conveniently available to the authority or any proprietary educational institution outside of the State which is attended by residents of the State and for which loan guarantee services are readily and conveniently available to the authority, which:

A. Provides a program of education beyond the high school level; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

B. Awards an associate, bachelor or advanced degree; and [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

C. Meets the conditions of applicable rules. [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 1989, c. 222 (AMD).]

12. Loan funding deposit. "Loan funding deposit" means money or other property deposited by an institution with the authority or a trustee or custodian, in amounts the authority determines necessary as a condition for an institution's participation in the authority's programs under this chapter, to:

A. Provide security for bonds; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

B. Fund a default reserve fund; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

C. Acquire default insurance; or [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

D. Defray costs of the authority. [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2015, c. 170, §12 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

13. Parent. "Parent" means any parent or guardian of a student at an institution of higher education.

[PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

14. Rule. "Rule" means a rule adopted by the authority pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II.
[PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

15. Secondary market. "Secondary market" means the entity created pursuant to section 11407 prior to the enactment of this chapter.
[PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

16. Supplemental loan. "Supplemental loan" means a loan to a student or to a parent to finance the costs of higher education other than a loan guaranteed pursuant to the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 United States Code, Chapter 28.
[PL 1999, c. 728, §12 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 222 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 502, §A59 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 728, §12 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §§9-12 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11414. Finance Authority of Maine; successor

The Finance Authority of Maine is the successor to the Maine Educational Loan Authority. All properties, rights in land, buildings and equipment and any funds, moneys, revenues and receipts or assets of the Maine Educational Loan Authority, including funds previously appropriated by the State for the Maine Educational Loan Authority, belong to the Finance Authority of Maine as successor, subject to all liens and pledges thereon made by the Maine Educational Loan Authority. All liabilities of the Maine Educational Loan Authority are liabilities of the Finance Authority of Maine. All contracts and undertakings of the Maine Educational Loan Authority are contracts of the Finance Authority of Maine. Any resolution with respect to the making of loans or issuance of bonds by the Maine Educational Loan Authority and any other action taken by them with respect to assistance provided under this chapter must be a resolution of the Finance Authority of Maine or an action taken by the Finance Authority of Maine. All bond obligations of the Maine Educational Loan Authority and all contracts, agreements, obligations, certifications and undertakings of the Maine Educational Loan Authority are obligations, contracts, agreements, certifications and undertakings of the Finance Authority of Maine, except that nothing in this section may be construed to make any obligation of the Maine Educational Loan Authority that is not a general obligation of the Maine Educational Loan Authority a general obligation of the Finance Authority of Maine, and any limitations on these obligations of the Maine Educational Loan Authority, whether by contract or indenture, are limitations on the obligations of the Finance Authority of Maine as successor. Notwithstanding this section, the Finance Authority of Maine shall administer and carry out, as obligations of the Finance Authority of Maine, all obligations of the Maine Educational Loan Authority. [PL 2015, c. 170, §13 (RPR); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §13 (RPR). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11415. Members

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 519, §6 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 443, §6 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 728, §13 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 20, §OO2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 20, §OO4 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 385, §2 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 397, §C12 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §14 (RP). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11416. Officers; quorum; effective actions

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §15 (RP). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11417. Supplemental powers and functions

1. General. In addition to the powers given to the authority under Title 10, section 969-A, for the purposes of carrying out the purposes of this chapter, the authority may, subject to any limitation of this chapter:

- A. Borrow money or otherwise obtain credit in its own name; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- B. Lend money or otherwise extend credit to any person and exercise all powers of a lender or creditor; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- C. Insure or guarantee performance of any loan agreement or other obligation; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- D. Acquire, use, manage, improve or dispose of any interest in, or type of, real or personal property, including grant, purchase, sale, borrow, loan, lease, foreclosure, mortgage, assignment or other lawful means, with or without public bidding and also including the assessment of fees, the forgiveness of indebtedness, the receipt of reimbursements for expenses incurred in carrying out its purposes and the expenditure or investment of its funds; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- E. Purchase, sell, service, pledge, invest in, hold, trade, accept as collateral or otherwise deal in, acquire or transfer, on such terms and conditions as the authority may specify, any loan, loan pass-through certificate, pledge, including any pledge of loan revenue, loan participation certificate or other loan-backed or loan-related security; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- F. Obtain, develop or disseminate any information useful or convenient for carrying out any purpose or power of the authority. The authority may conduct hearings, hear testimony under oath, administer oaths, issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses or the production of records or other things and may issue commissions for the examination of witnesses who are outside of the State, unable to attend or are excused from attendance; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- G. Procure insurance in aid of any of its corporate purposes; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- H. [PL 1999, c. 728, §14 (AMD); MRSA T. 20-A §11417, sub-1, ¶H (RP).]
- I. Obtain any certification, warranty, affidavit or other representation necessary or useful for carrying out any of its powers or duties; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- J. Employ persons, including private legal counsel and financial experts, on either a temporary or permanent basis, in order to carry out any of its powers and duties. Employees of the authority are not subject to Title 5, chapter 71 or Title 5, chapter 372, subchapter 2; [RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. A, §47 (COR).]
- K. Sue or initiate or appear in any proceeding. The authority may be sued on its written contracts or in accordance with Title 1, section 409; Title 5, chapter 375; or Title 14, chapter 741; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- L. [PL 2015, c. 170, §16 (RP); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]
- M. [PL 2015, c. 170, §16 (RP); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]
- N. Pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2, adopt any rules, including its bylaws, necessary or useful for carrying out any of its powers or duties, which are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A; [PL 2015, c. 170, §16 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

O. Make, modify and carry out any agreement, including issuing any bond, necessary or useful for carrying out any of its powers, duties or purposes; and [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

P. Do any act or thing necessary or useful for carrying out any of its powers, duties or purposes. [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
[RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. A, §47 (COR).]

2. Programs. Without limiting the generality of this chapter, the authority is authorized to carry out one or more programs making financial and other assistance available to borrowers, institutions, or both, to finance costs of attendance. The authority is further authorized to issue its bonds, lend the proceeds of the bonds and exercise any other power set forth in this chapter for these purposes. [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

3. Policies. The members of the authority have the power and duty to establish and revise, from time to time, rules pertaining to participation in the program, issuing bonds and borrowing money by the authority for the program, a process for allocation and carry-forward of that portion of the state ceiling on issuance of tax-exempt bonds allocated to the authority for the program pursuant to Title 10, chapter 9 and servicing and collection of loans made pursuant to the program. In addition, the members of the authority may, by resolution of the members, determine that the authority may borrow money for the program in accordance with any such resolution. The authority, by rule, may delegate certain powers to its chief executive officer, and in such cases, the chief executive officer shall carry out such powers and duties in accordance with this chapter and the rules of the authority. [PL 2015, c. 170, §16 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

4. Administration.
[PL 2015, c. 170, §16 (RP); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

5. Loan origination. The powers of the authority set forth in subsection 1, paragraph B and in subsection 2 are limited as set forth in this subsection. The authority is authorized to originate supplemental loans. [PL 1999, c. 728, §16 (NEW).]

6. Business plan.
[PL 2015, c. 170, §16 (RP); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

7. Operating contracts. In carrying out its powers under this chapter, the authority may enter into loan origination, servicing and other substantial operating contracts, in compliance with its procurement policies and any applicable authority rule. [PL 2015, c. 170, §16 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 502, §A60 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 728, §§14-16 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §16 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF). RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. A, §47 (COR).

§11418. Records confidential

1. Confidential information. Records containing any information acquired by the authority or a member, officer, employee or agent of the authority from applicants for or recipients of financial assistance provided pursuant to the program are confidential for purposes of Title 1, section 402, subsection 3, paragraph A. [PL 2015, c. 170, §17 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

2. Wrongful disclosure prohibited. No member, officer, employee, agent, other representative of the authority or other person may knowingly divulge or disclose records declared confidential by this section, except that the authority may, in its discretion, make or authorize any disclosure of information of the following types or under the following circumstances:

A. Impersonal, statistical or general information; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

B. If necessary in connection with processing any application for, obtaining or maintaining financial assistance for any person or in connection with acquiring, maintaining or disposing of property; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

C. To a financial institution or credit reporting service; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

D. Information necessary to comply with any federal or state law or rule or with any agreement pertaining to financial assistance; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

E. Information to the extent the authority deems the disclosure necessary to the sale or transfer of its bonds; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

F. If necessary to assure collection of any obligation in which it has or may have an interest; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

G. In any litigation or proceeding in which the authority has appeared, introduction for the record of any information obtained from records declared confidential by this section; and [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

H. Pursuant to a subpoena, request for production of documents, warrant or other order by competent authority, provided that any such order appears to have first been served on the person to whom confidential information sought pertains or belongs and provided that any such order appears on its face or otherwise to have been issued or made upon lawful authority. [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §17 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11419. Conflict of interest

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §18 (RP). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11420. Bonds

1. Issuance; purpose; payment; authorization; interim receipts or certificates. The authority may, at any time and from time to time, issue bonds for the purpose of making authority loans to institutions participating in the program for the purpose of providing education loans, for acquiring existing portfolios of education loans from institutions or for financing or funding education loans directly or indirectly to borrowers. The bonds of each issue must be payable from sources specified in the agreement with bondholders, including without limitation, principal and interest on loans; payments by institutions, banks, insurance companies or others pursuant to letters of credit or purchase agreements; investment earnings from funds or accounts maintained pursuant to a trust agreement or other document; insurance proceeds; loan funding deposits; proceeds of sales of education loans; proceeds of refunding bonds; and other fees, charges or revenues of the authority if so specified.

Bonds must be authorized by the authority and must:

A. Bear the date or dates, and mature at a time or times, whether as serial bonds or as term bonds, or both, determined by the authority; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

B. Bear interest at a rate or rates determined by the authority, including, but not limited to, fixed, variable, floating or adjustable interest rates; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

C. Be payable at a time or times, in the denominations and form, either coupon or registered or both, and carry the registration and privileges as to conversion and for the replacement of mutilated, lost or destroyed bonds as the authority may establish; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

- D. Be negotiable and be payable in lawful money of the United States at a designated place or be payable in another form of currency if the authority so designates; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- E. Be subject to redemption in accordance with the agreement with bondholders; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- F. Be executed by the manual or facsimile signatures of the officers or designees of the authority; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- G. Be sold in the manner and upon the terms determined by the authority at public or private sale, with or without public bidding; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- H. Be conclusively presumed to be fully and duly authorized and issued under the laws of the State and any person or governmental unit must be estopped from questioning their authorization, sale, issuance, execution or delivery by the authority; and [PL 2015, c. 170, §19 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]
- I. Be deemed to be negotiable instruments issued under the laws of the State. [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

Pending preparation of the definitive bonds, the authority may issue interim receipts or certificates, which must be exchanged for such definitive bonds.

Bonds issued under this chapter do not constitute or create any debt or debts, liability or liabilities on behalf of the State or of any political subdivision of the State, other than the authority, or a loan of the credit of the State or a pledge of the faith and credit of the State or of any such political subdivision, other than the authority, but are payable solely from the funds provided. All such bonds must contain on the face of the bonds a statement to the effect that neither the State nor any political subdivision of the State is obligated to pay the same or the interest on the bonds, except from revenues derived pursuant to one or more agreements, and that neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of the State or of any political subdivision of the State is pledged to the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or the interest on such bonds. The issuance of bonds under this chapter must not directly or indirectly or contingently obligate the State or any political subdivision of the State to levy or to pledge any form of taxation whatever or to make any appropriation for their payment. Nothing in this section contained may prevent nor be construed to prevent the authority from pledging its full faith and credit or the full faith and credit of an institution to the payment of bonds or issue of bonds authorized pursuant to this chapter.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §19 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

2. Provisions in bond resolution or other document. Any bond resolution or other document may contain provisions, which must be a part of the contract with the holders of the bonds to be authorized under this chapter, as to:

- A. Pledging or assigning the revenues derived from authority loans, education loans or other sources with respect to which the bonds are to be issued; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- B. The fees and other charges to be collected and the sums to be raised in each year, and the use, investment and disposition of such sums; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- C. The setting aside of loan funding deposits, debt service reserves, capitalized interest accounts, cost of issuance accounts and sinking funds, and the regulation, investment and disposition; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- D. Limitations on the use of proceeds of loans; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]
- E. Limitations on the purpose to which or the investments in which the proceeds of sale of any issue of bonds then or thereafter to be issued may be applied; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

F. Limitations on the issuance of additional bonds, the terms upon which additional bonds may be issued and secured, the terms upon which additional bonds may rank on a parity with, or be subordinate or superior to, other bonds; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

G. The refunding or refinancing of outstanding bonds; [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

H. The procedure, if any, by which the terms of any contract with bondholders may be altered or amended and the amount of bonds the holders of which must consent thereto, and the manner in which consent must be given; [PL 2015, c. 170, §19 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

I. Defining the acts or omissions that constitute a default in the duties of the authority to holders of its obligations and providing the rights or remedies of such holders in the event of a default; [PL 2015, c. 170, §19 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

J. Providing for guarantees, pledges of endowments, letters of credit, property or other security, or insurance for the benefit of the holders of the bonds; and [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

K. Any other matter relating to the bonds that the authority determines appropriate. [PL 2015, c. 170, §19 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

[PL 2015, c. 170, §19 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

3. Liability. No member or employee of the authority nor any person executing the bonds issued under this chapter may be liable personally on the bonds or subject to any personal liability by reason of the issuance of the bonds.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §19 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

4. Purchasing, refunding or refinancing by authority. The authority may purchase its bonds issued under this chapter out of any available funds and may hold, pledge, cancel or resell the bonds subject to and in accordance with agreements with bondholders.

The authority may refund or refinance any of its bonds issued under this chapter.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §19 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

5. Security for series or issue of bonds. The authority may pledge the repayments of authority loans as security for a series or issue of bonds issued under this chapter. Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this chapter, the authority may commingle and pledge as security for a series or issue of such bonds, with the consent of all of the institutions that are participating in the series or issue; the education loan series portfolios and some or all future education loan series portfolios of the institutions; and the loan funding deposits of the institutions if education loan series portfolios and other security and money set aside in any fund or funds pledged for any series or issue of such bonds are held for the sole benefit of the series or issue separate and apart from education loan series portfolios and other security and money pledged for any other series or issue of such bonds of the authority.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §19 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

The authority may provide for transfer of registration of its registered bonds issued under this chapter by book entry on the records of the entity designated for that purpose and may enter into any agreement it considers necessary to accomplish these purposes. [PL 2015, c. 170, §19 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §19 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11421. Refunding bonds

The authority may provide for issuance of refunding bonds of the authority to refund any outstanding bonds issued under this chapter, including the payment of any redemption premium and any interest accrued or to accrue to the date of redemption. The authority may provide for the issuance of bonds of the authority for the combined purpose of refunding any outstanding bonds, including

refunding bonds issued under this chapter. The issuance of the bonds, the maturities and other details, the rights and remedies of the holders and the rights, powers, privileges, duties and obligations of the authority are governed by the provisions of this chapter insofar as they are applicable. [PL 2015, c. 170, §20 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §20 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11422. Loan transactions

In furtherance of the purposes of this chapter, the authority may purchase, sell, service, pledge, invest in, hold, trade, accept as collateral or otherwise deal in, acquire or transfer, all on such terms and conditions as the authority may specify, any loan, loan pass-through certificate, pledge, including any pledge of loan revenue, loan participation certificate or other loan-backed or loan-related security. Any such transaction may be conducted by public or private offering, with or without public bidding. In connection with such purchase or sale of a loan or of a beneficial interest or participation in a loan, the authority may enter into one or more agreements providing for the custody, control and administration of the loan. Any such agreement may provide that the authority, a financial institution or other person shall act as trustor, trustee or custodian under the agreement. Any such agreement may provide that, with respect to loans governed by the agreement, title to a loan, or to a beneficial interest or participation in a loan, must be deemed to have been transferred on terms and to the extent specified in that agreement and that the effect of a sale of a beneficial interest or participation in a loan is the same as a sale of a loan. In furtherance of the purposes of this chapter, the authority may also issue or cause to be issued certificates or other instruments evidencing the holder's fractional interest in a pool of loans, which interest may be undivided or limited to one or more specific loans. Whether or not the certificates or instruments are of such form or character as to be negotiable instruments under Title 11, Article 8, the certificates or instruments must be and are made negotiable instruments within the meaning of and for all purposes of Title 11, Article 8, subject only to such registration requirements as the authority may establish. [PL 2015, c. 170, §20 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §20 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11423. Trust agreement; pledge

1. Trust agreement. Any bonds issued under this chapter may be secured by a trust agreement by and between any or all of the following: The authority, a participating institution and a corporate trustee or trustees, which may be any trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or without the State.

[PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

2. Pledge. Any trust agreement entered into pursuant to a bond issue under this chapter may pledge or assign any revenues to be received by the authority or proceeds or benefits of any contract and may serve to convey or mortgage or otherwise secure any property or property rights, contain provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of bondholders, restrict the individual right of action by bondholders and contain such other provisions as the authority deems appropriate, including the right to the appointment of a receiver and the right to the issuance of an order of specific performance by a court of competent jurisdiction.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §21 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

3. Education loan program. Any expense incurred in carrying out the trust agreement entered into pursuant to a bond issue under this chapter may be treated as a part of the cost of the operation of an education loan program.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §21 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

4. Valid and binding. A pledge by the authority of revenues as security for an issue of bonds issued under this chapter is valid and binding from the time when the pledge is made.

The revenues pledged are immediately subject to the lien of the pledge without any physical delivery, recording of any instrument or further act and the lien of any pledge is valid and binding against any person having any claim of any kind in tort, contract or otherwise against the authority or any participating institution or borrower, irrespective of whether the person has notice.

No bond resolution, trust agreement or financing statement, continuation statement or other instrument adopted or entered into by the authority under this chapter need be filed or recorded in any public record other than the records of the authority in order to perfect the lien against 3rd persons, regardless of any contrary provision of law.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §21 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

5. Trust funds. All money received by or on behalf of the authority under this chapter, whether as proceeds from the sale of bonds or as revenues, shall be deemed to be trust funds to be held and applied solely as provided in this chapter.

Any officer with whom, or any bank or trust company with which, that money is deposited shall act as trustee of the money and shall hold and apply it for the purposes provided in the chapter and any applicable bond resolution or trust agreement.

[PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §21 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11424. Capital reserve funds; obligation of the State

1. Capital reserve fund. In connection with bonds issued under this chapter, the authority may create and establish one or more capital reserve funds and may pay into any such capital reserve fund any money appropriated and made available by the State for the purposes of any such fund, any proceeds of the sale by the authority of bonds to the extent determined by the authority and any other money available to the authority.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §22 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

2. Application. Money held in any capital reserve fund created in connection with bonds issued under this chapter, except as provided in this section, must be used solely with respect to bonds, repayment of which is secured by any such fund and solely for the payment of principal of bonds, the purchase or redemption of those bonds, including any fees or premiums and the payment of interest on those bonds. In addition, if the authority obtains a letter of credit, insurance contract, surety bond or similar financial undertaking to establish and fund a capital reserve fund under this section, money in that capital reserve fund may be used to pay, as and when due, all reimbursement obligations of the authority established in connection with that letter of credit, insurance contract, surety bond or similar financial undertaking, including, but not limited to, all fees, expenses, indemnities and commissions. Money in excess of the reserve requirement set forth in subsection 3 may be transferred to other funds and accounts of the authority.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §23 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

3. Reserve requirement. The authority may provide that money in any such fund shall not be withdrawn at any time in such amount as would reduce the amount of any such fund to less than the maximum amount of principal and interest becoming due by reason of maturity or a required sinking fund payment in the next succeeding 12-month period within which any such maturity occurs or any such payment is required, the amount being referred to as the "capital reserve requirement," except for the purpose of paying the amount due at any such maturity or the sinking fund payment with respect to bonds, repayment of which is secured by any such fund.

[PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

4. Issuance limit. The authority may provide that it will not issue bonds under this chapter if the capital reserve requirement with respect to bonds outstanding and then to be issued and secured by any such fund will exceed the amount of any such fund at the time of issuance, unless the authority, at the time of issuance of the bonds, deposits in any such fund from proceeds of the bonds to be issued, or from other sources, an amount that, together with the amount then in any such fund, will not be less than the capital reserve requirement.

[PL 2015, c. 170, §24 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

5. Appropriation. On or before December 1st, annually, the authority shall certify to the Governor the amount, if any, necessary to restore the amount in any capital reserve fund, to which this subsection is stated in the trust agreement or other document to apply, to the capital reserve requirement. The Governor shall pay directly from the Contingent Account to any such fund as much of the amount as is available in the Contingent Account and shall transmit directly to the Legislature that certification and a statement of the amount, if any, remaining to be paid and the amount certified shall be appropriated and paid to the authority during the current state fiscal year.

[PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

6. Bonds outstanding. The authority may not have at any one time outstanding bonds to which subsection 5 is stated in the trust agreement or other document to apply in principal amount exceeding \$225,000,000. The amount of bonds issued to refund bonds previously issued may not be taken into account in determining the principal amount of the bonds outstanding, as long as the proceeds of the refunding bonds are applied as promptly as possible to the refunding of the previously issued bonds. In computing the total amount of bonds of the authority that may at any time be outstanding for any purpose, the amount of the outstanding bonds that have been issued as capital appreciation bonds or as similar instruments must be valued as of any date of calculation at their current accreted value rather than their face value.

[PL 2011, c. 401, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 40, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 401, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §§22-24 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11425. Enforcement of rights and duties

Except to the extent that the rights are restricted by any applicable bond resolution or trust or other agreement, any holder of bonds issued under this chapter or a trustee under a trust agreement entered into under this chapter may, by any suitable form of legal proceedings, protect and enforce any rights granted under the laws of the State or by any applicable bond resolution or trust or other agreement.

[PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).

§11426. Bonds as legal investments

Bonds issued by the authority under this chapter are hereby made securities in which all public officers and public bodies of the State and its political subdivisions, all insurance companies and associations and other persons carrying on an insurance business, trust companies, banks, bankers, banking associations, savings banks and savings associations, including savings and loan associations, financial institutions, credit unions, building and loan associations, investment companies, executors, administrators, trustees and other fiduciaries, pension, profit-sharing, retirement funds and other persons carrying on a banking business and all other persons whatsoever, may properly and legally invest funds, including capital in their control or belonging to them. These bonds are hereby made securities which may properly and legally be deposited with and received by any state, municipal or public officer or any agency or political subdivision of the State for any purpose for which the deposit

of bonds or other obligations of the State is now or may hereafter be authorized by law. [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).

§11427. Accounts and reports

The authority shall keep full and accurate accounts of its activities and operations under this chapter and shall, within 120 days after the end of each of its fiscal years, make and deliver a report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education. The report must cover the preceding fiscal year and must include a complete operating and financial statement for that year and a breakdown showing the geographic distribution and distribution between institutions of higher learning of its student loans among residents of this State. The report must demonstrate that all revenues, including reserves, that are acquired with proceeds of tax-exempt bonds issued under this chapter using a portion of the state ceiling on private activity bonds, are being used in a manner consistent with the public purpose for which the bonds are issued. The authority shall cause an audit of its books and accounts related to its operations under this chapter to be made at least once each year by independent certified public accountants. The audit may be combined with audits of other activities of the authority. The cost of the audit may be paid by the authority from funds available to it pursuant to this chapter. [PL 2015, c. 170, §25 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 728, §17 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §25 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11428. Chapter additional and supplemental

1. In general. This chapter provides a complete, additional and alternative method for carrying out the functions authorized and shall be regarded as supplemental and additional to, and the limitations imposed by this chapter do not limit or otherwise affect powers or rights conferred by other laws and the issuance of bonds and refunding bonds under this chapter need not comply with the requirements of any other law applicable to the issuance of bonds. [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

2. Institutions of higher education. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or charter, institutions of higher education may borrow money from the authority, make education loans and take all other actions necessary or convenient to consummate the transactions contemplated under this chapter. The authority may establish, contract for, charge and collect any amount or rate of interest or compensation with respect to authority loans and participating institutions of higher education may contract for, charge and collect any amount or rate of interest or compensation with respect to education loans. Neither the authority nor any institution of higher education participating in a loan program under this chapter may be subject to any licensing provisions relating to financial institutions or any credit regulations of the State.

[PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).

§11429. Tax exemption

The exercise of the powers granted by this chapter must be in all respects for the benefit of the people of the State, for the increase of their commerce, welfare and prosperity and for the improvement of their health and living conditions and constitutes the performance of an essential governmental function. Neither the authority nor any of its agents may be required to pay any taxes or assessments

upon or in respect of education loans or any property acquired, used by the authority or any of its agents or under the jurisdiction, control, possession or supervision of, or upon the activities of, the authority or any of its agents in the operation of any program under this chapter, or upon income or other revenues received and any bonds issued under this chapter, the transfer and the income from the bonds, including any profit made on the sale of the bonds, as well as the income and property of the authority derived under this chapter, are at all times exempt from taxation of every kind by the State and by the municipalities and all other political subdivisions of the State. [PL 2015, c. 170, §26 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §26 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11430. Taxable bond option

With respect to all or any portion of any issue of any bonds or any series of bonds which the authority may issue in accordance with the limitations and restrictions of this chapter, the authority may covenant, elect and consent that the interest on the bonds shall be includable, under the code or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue law of the United States, in the gross income of the holders of the bonds to the same extent and in the same manner that the interest on bills, bonds, notes or other obligations of the United States is includable in the gross income of the holders under the code or any subsequent law. Bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not be subject to any limitations or restrictions of any law which may limit the authority's power to issue those bonds. The foregoing grant of power shall not be construed as limiting the inherent power of the State or its agencies under any other provision of law to issue debt, the interest on which is includable in the gross income of the holders under the code or any subsequent law. [PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW).

§11431. Agreement of the State

The State hereby pledges to and agrees with the holders of any bonds issued under this chapter and with those parties who may enter into any contract with the authority pursuant to this chapter that the State will not limit, alter, restrict or impair the rights vested in the authority and the participating institutions under this chapter until the bonds, together with interest, including interest on any unpaid installment of interest and all costs and expenses in connection with any actions or proceedings by or on behalf of the bondholders, are fully met and discharged and such contracts are fully performed on the part of the authority. Nothing in this chapter precludes that limitation or alteration if and when adequate provision is made by law for the protection of the holders of bonds of the authority issued under this chapter or those entering into contracts with the authority pursuant to this chapter. The authority is authorized to include this pledge and undertaking for the State in those bonds or contracts. [PL 2015, c. 170, §26 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §26 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11432. Termination of existence of authority

A law terminating the existence of the authority may not take effect as long as any bonds of the authority issued under this chapter are outstanding and unpaid without adequate provision for payment having been made. [PL 2015, c. 170, §26 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §26 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11433. Chapter cumulative; no notice required

Neither this chapter nor anything contained in this chapter may be construed as a restriction or limitation upon any powers that the authority might otherwise have under any laws of this State and this chapter is cumulative of any such powers. Neither the making of contracts nor the issuance of bonds pursuant to this chapter need comply with the requirements of any other state law applicable to the making of contracts, the issuance of bonds or the construction, acquisition or management of any project undertaken pursuant to this chapter. No proceedings, notice or approval is required for the issuance of any bonds or any instrument as security therefor under this chapter, except as is provided in this chapter or in the code, if applicable. [PL 2015, c. 170, §26 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §26 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11434. Chapter liberally construed

This chapter being necessary for the welfare of the State and its inhabitants must be liberally construed so as to effect its purposes. [PL 2015, c. 170, §26 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 170, §26 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

§11435. Review of authority

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 807, §3 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 397, §B4 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 170, §27 (RP). PL 2015, c. 170, §30 (AFF).

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