



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 460

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S.P. 214

In Senate, February 6, 2023

**An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Student  
Success and Workforce Readiness Within the University of Maine  
System**

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Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth and  
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, President JACKSON of Aroostook, LIBBY of Cumberland,  
RAFFERTY of York, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland,  
DODGE of Belfast, MILLETT of Waterford.



1           **Sec. 7. Appropriation balances at year-end.** At the end of each fiscal year, all  
2 unencumbered appropriation balances representing state money carry forward. Bond  
3 proceeds that have not been expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the bonds  
4 lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of general  
5 obligation bonds.

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

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

17                                "Do you favor a \$100,000,000 bond issue, to be matched by private and  
18                                other funds, to strategically improve infrastructure at all University of  
19                                Maine System campuses across the State in order to increase program  
20                                enrollment, improve student success and meet the needs of Maine  
21                                employers for more skilled workers?"

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

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

33    **SUMMARY**

34           The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$100,000,000, to be matched  
35 by private and other funds, will be used to strategically improve infrastructure at all  
36 campuses of the University of Maine System, which may include upgrading classrooms,  
37 research laboratories, residence halls and other infrastructure across the University of  
38 Maine System, to increase program enrollment, improve student success, meet employer  
39 needs and benefit the surrounding communities.