



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 299

H.P. 232

House of Representatives, January 31, 2017

**An Act To Increase Voter Knowledge by Placing the Amount of the
Total Current Bond Debt on Each Ballot That Contains a Bond
Issue**

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SUTTON of Warren.
Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and
Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray, CASÁS of Rockport, MALABY of Hancock, O'CONNOR
of Berwick, PRESCOTT of Waterboro, SAMPSON of Alfred, SANDERSON of Chelsea,
STETKIS of Canaan.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §152**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 131, §1, is further amended to
3 read:

4 **§152. Ratification of bond issue; signed statement**

5 In accordance with the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, section 14, the Treasurer of
6 State shall prepare a signed statement, called the Treasurer's Statement, to accompany any
7 question submitted to the electors for ratification of a bond issue setting forth the total
8 amount of bonds of the State outstanding and unpaid, the total amount of bonds of the
9 State authorized and unissued and the total amount of bonds of the State contemplated to
10 be issued if the enactment submitted to the electors should be ratified. The Treasurer of
11 State shall also set forth in that statement an estimate of costs involved, including
12 explanation of, based on such factors as interest rates that may vary, the interest cost
13 contemplated to be paid on the amount to be issued, the total cost of principal and interest
14 that will be paid at maturity and any other substantive explanatory information relating to
15 the debt of the State as the Treasurer of State considers appropriate. To meet the
16 requirement that the signed statement of the Treasurer of State accompany any ballot
17 question for ratification of a bond issue, the statement ~~may~~ must be printed on the ballot
18 ~~or it may~~ and must be printed as a separate document that is made available to voters as
19 provided in Title 21-A, sections 605-A and 651.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 Current law provides that the statement of the Treasurer of State setting forth the total
22 amount of bonds of the State outstanding and unpaid, the total amount of bonds of the
23 State authorized and unissued and the total amount of bonds of the State contemplated to
24 be issued if the enactment submitted to the electors is ratified be printed on the ballot
25 containing the proposed bond issue or printed as a separate document and posted outside
26 the guardrail enclosure at each voting place. This bill amends that law to require that that
27 information be printed on the ballot and printed as a separate document and posted
28 outside the guardrail enclosure at each voting place.