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Legislative Document

No. 1224

H.P. 885

House of Representatives, March 14, 2019

**An Act To Authorize General Fund Bond Issues To Address
Changes in Sea Level, Geospatial Data Acquisition by Communities
and the Increase in Ocean Acidity**

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

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DEVIN of Newcastle.
Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, BLUME of York, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth,
HEPLER of Woolwich, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, McDONALD of Stonington, STOVER of
Boothbay, Senator: CARSON of Cumberland.

1 **Sec. B-2. Records of bonds issued; Treasurer of State.** The Treasurer of
2 State shall ensure that an account of each bond is kept showing the number of the bond,
3 the name of the successful bidder to whom sold, the amount received for the bond, the
4 date of sale and the date when payable.

5 **Sec. B-3. Sale; how negotiated; proceeds appropriated.** The Treasurer of
6 State may negotiate the sale of the bonds by direction of the Governor, but no bond may
7 be loaned, pledged or hypothecated on behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of the
8 bonds, which must be held by the Treasurer of State and paid by the Treasurer of State
9 upon warrants drawn by the State Controller, are appropriated solely for the purposes set
10 forth in this Part. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the project
11 in this Part lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of
12 general obligation bonds.

13 **Sec. B-4. Interest and debt retirement.** The Treasurer of State shall pay
14 interest due or accruing on any bonds issued under this Part and all sums coming due for
15 payment of bonds at maturity.

16 **Sec. B-5. Use of bonds.** Bond proceeds may be used for geospatial data
17 acquisition in support of statewide economic development activities. Funds will be used
18 for acquiring elevation, orthoimagery, parcel mapping and other geospatial data important
19 to the State. The use of bond proceeds is subject to the following conditions and
20 requirements.

21 1. The Maine Library of Geographic Information Board, established in the Maine
22 Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 30-B, shall approve all
23 applications for geospatial data acquisition and ensure that all bond funds are matched by
24 at least one dollar from other sources for every bond dollar committed to geospatial data
25 acquisition.

26 2. The Maine Library of Geographic Information Board, established in the Maine
27 Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 30-B, shall develop a parcel
28 mapping grant program for counties and municipalities to improve the coverage and
29 update status and accuracy levels of the Maine Library of Geographic Information parcel
30 data.

31 3. Bond funds may be used to acquire geographic information systems base map data
32 and other multipurpose data not specific to any state agency.

33 **Sec. B-6. Disbursement of bond proceeds from General Fund bond issue.**
34 The proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized under this Part must be expended as
35 designated in the following schedule under the direction and supervision of the agencies
36 and entities set forth in this section.

37 **ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL**
38 **SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

39 With approval of the Maine Library of Geographic Information Board, established in
40 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 30-B, provides

1 funds to counties and municipalities to invest in geospatial data acquisition projects
2 throughout the State in a fashion that supports and enhances economic activity,
3 environmental protection and quality of life for the people of the State.

4 Total \$6,000,000

5 **Sec. B-7. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue.** Sections 1 to 6 do not
6 become effective unless the people of the State ratify the issuance of the bonds as set
7 forth in this Part.

8 **Sec. B-8. Appropriation balances at year-end.** At the end of each fiscal year,
9 all unencumbered appropriation balances representing state money carry forward. Bond
10 proceeds that have not been expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the
11 bonds lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of general
12 obligation bonds.

13 **Sec. B-9. Bonds authorized but not issued.** Any bonds authorized but not
14 issued within 5 years of ratification of this Part are deauthorized and may not be issued,
15 except that the Legislature may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period,
16 extend the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds for an additional amount of
17 time not to exceed 5 years.

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

24 "Do you favor a \$6,000,000 bond issue to provide partnership funds and
25 matching grants for geospatial data acquisition to communities that are
26 creating or improving digital parcel maps to accurately identify existing
27 boundaries and land use, identify potential community development
28 areas and protect environmental resources?"

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

37 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all
38 ballots, returns and copies of this Part necessary to carry out the purposes of this
39 referendum.

1 **PART C**

2 **Sec. C-1. Authorization of bonds.** The Treasurer of State is authorized, under
3 the direction of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on behalf of the State in an
4 amount not exceeding \$3,000,000 for the purposes described in section 5 of this Part.
5 The bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for
6 a period longer than 10 years from the date of the original issue of the bonds.

7 **Sec. C-2. Records of bonds issued; Treasurer of State.** The Treasurer of
8 State shall ensure that an account of each bond is kept showing the number of the bond,
9 the name of the successful bidder to whom sold, the amount received for the bond, the
10 date of sale and the date when payable.

11 **Sec. C-3. Sale; how negotiated; proceeds appropriated.** The Treasurer of
12 State may negotiate the sale of the bonds by direction of the Governor, but no bond may
13 be loaned, pledged or hypothecated on behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of the
14 bonds, which must be held by the Treasurer of State and paid by the Treasurer of State
15 upon warrants drawn by the State Controller, are appropriated solely for the purposes set
16 forth in this Part. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the project
17 in this Part lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of
18 general obligation bonds.

19 **Sec. C-4. Interest and debt retirement.** The Treasurer of State shall pay
20 interest due or accruing on any bonds issued under this Part and all sums coming due for
21 payment of bonds at maturity.

22 **Sec. C-5. Disbursement of bond proceeds from General Fund bond issue.**
23 The proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized under this Part must be expended as
24 designated in the following schedule under the direction and supervision of the agencies
25 and entities set forth in this section.

26 **MARINE RESOURCES,**
27 **DEPARTMENT OF**

28 Provides funds to collect data, monitor waterways and perform tests related to the
29 known increasing ocean acidity along the Maine coast and its impact on natural
30 wildlife and commercially important species in Maine waters, such as lobsters and
31 clams.

32 Total \$3,000,000

33 **Sec. C-6. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue.** Sections 1 to 5 do not
34 become effective unless the people of the State ratify the issuance of the bonds as set
35 forth in this Part.

36 **Sec. C-7. Appropriation balances at year-end.** At the end of each fiscal year,
37 all unencumbered appropriation balances representing state money carry forward. Bond

1 proceeds that have not been expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the
2 bonds lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of general
3 obligation bonds.

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

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

15 "Do you favor a \$3,000,000 bond issue to provide funds to collect data,
16 monitor waterways and perform tests related to the known increasing
17 ocean acidity along the Maine coast and its impact on natural wildlife
18 and commercially important species in Maine waters, such as lobsters
19 and clams?"

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

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

31 SUMMARY

32 This bill authorizes the issuance of bonds.

33 1. Part A of this bill authorizes the issuance of bonds, in the amount of \$5,000,000,
34 to be used to support improvements to sea level prediction models by providing more
35 detailed mapping of coastal zones and monitoring sea level changes in order to mitigate
36 the impact of and help prepare for rising sea levels.

37 2. Part B of this bill authorizes the issuance of bonds, in the amount of \$6,000,000,
38 to be used to provide partnership funds and matching grants for geospatial data
39 acquisition to communities that are creating or improving digital parcel maps to

1 accurately identify existing boundaries and land use, identify potential community
2 development areas and protect environmental resources.

3 3. Part C of this bill authorizes the issuance of bonds, in the amount of \$3,000,000,
4 to be used to collect data, monitor waterways and perform tests related to the known
5 increasing ocean acidity along the Maine coast and its impact on natural wildlife and
6 commercially important species in Maine waters, such as lobsters and clams.