



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 1526

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H.P. 1130

House of Representatives, April 19, 2021

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**An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Strengthen  
University of Maine System Workforce Education and Innovation**

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Received by the Clerk of the House on April 15, 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 black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PIERCE of Falmouth.  
Cosponsored by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland and  
Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, WHITE of Waterville, Senators: BENNETT of  
Oxford, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, President JACKSON of Aroostook, SANBORN of  
Cumberland.

1           **Preamble.** Two thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in  
2 accordance with the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 14 to authorize the issuance  
3 of bonds on behalf of the State of Maine to provide funds as described in this Act,

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

5           **Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds.** The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the  
6 direction of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on behalf of the State in an  
7 amount not exceeding \$75,000,000 for the purposes described in section 5 of this Act. The  
8 bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for a  
9 period longer than 10 years from the date of the original issue of the bonds.

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

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

22           **Sec. 4. Interest and debt retirement.** The Treasurer of State shall pay interest  
23 due or accruing on any bonds issued under this Act and all sums coming due for payment  
24 of bonds at maturity.

25           **Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds from General Fund bond issue.** The  
26 proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized under this Act must be expended as designated  
27 in the following schedule under the direction and supervision of the agencies and entities  
28 set forth in this section.

29           **UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM**

30           Provides funds to modernize infrastructure at the University of Maine through  
31 renovation and replacement approved by the University of Maine System Board of  
32 Trustees in order to expand and enhance undergraduate and graduate engineering  
33 education, computing and information science in support of Maine employer needs.  
34           Bond funds will be matched by at least \$75,000,000 in private funds.

35           Total \$35,000,000

36           Provides funds for the new construction of a graduate and professional center on the  
37 University of Southern Maine's Portland campus approved by the University of Maine  
38 System Board of Trustees that will support the State's only law school and other in-  
39 demand integrated professional programs in business, public and health policy and  
40 engineering. Bond funds will also support the removal of the existing University of  
41 Maine School of Law and be matched by at least \$55,000,000 in private funds.

42           Total \$20,000,000

1 Provides funds for renovations, energy efficiencies and improvements of classrooms,  
2 laboratories and other infrastructure that supports workforce attraction, development and  
3 retention in education and training programs connected to high-growth occupations at  
4 the University of Maine at Augusta, University of Maine at Farmington, University of  
5 Maine at Fort Kent, University of Maine at Machias and University of Maine at Presque  
6 Isle as approved by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees.

7 Total \$20,000,000

8 **Sec. 6. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue.** Sections 1 to 5 do not  
9 become effective unless the people of the State ratify the issuance of the bonds as set forth  
10 in this Act.

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

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

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

27 "Do you favor a \$75,000,000 bond issue to be matched by at least  
28 \$130,000,000 in private funds to modernize public university facilities  
29 statewide in order to expand access to affordable education and training  
30 for high-demand Maine careers?"

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

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

**SUMMARY**

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The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$75,000,000, will be used to modernize facilities at all University of Maine System campuses in order to leverage at least \$130,000,000 in private matching funds and expand and enhance integrated education and professional training for fields including engineering, computing, information science, business and law.