

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 911 - L.D. 1415

An Act to Expand Access to School Construction Funding

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15905, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2019, c. 616, Pt. C, §9, is further amended to read:

A. The state board may approve projects as long as no project approval will cause debt service costs, as defined in section 15672, subsection 2-A, paragraph A and pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with Resolve 2007, chapter 223, section 4, to exceed the maximum limits specified in Table 1 and Table 2 in subsequent fiscal years.

Table 1

Fiscal year	Major Capital Maximum Debt Service Limit	Integrated, Consolidated Secondary and Postsecondary Project Maximum Debt Service Limit
1990	\$ 48,000,000	
1991	\$ 57,000,000	
1992	\$ 65,000,000	
1993	\$ 67,000,000	
1994	\$ 67,000,000	
1995	\$ 67,000,000	
1996	\$ 67,000,000	
1997	\$ 67,000,000	
1998	\$ 67,000,000	
1999	\$ 69,000,000	
2000	\$ 72,000,000	
2001	\$ 74,000,000	
2002	\$ 74,000,000	
2003	\$ 80,000,000	
2004	\$ 80,000,000	
2005	\$ 84,000,000	
2006	\$ 90,000,000	
2007	\$ 96,000,000	

2008	\$100,000,000	
2009	\$104,000,000	
2010	\$108,000,000	
2011	\$126,000,000	
2012	\$116,000,000	
2013	\$116,000,000	
2014	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
2015	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
2016	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
2017	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
2018	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
2019	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
2020	\$126,000,000	\$20,000,000
2021	\$126,000,000	\$20,000,000
2022	\$126,000,000	\$20,000,000
2023	\$126,000,000	\$20,000,000

Table 2

Fiscal year	Maximum Debt Service Limit
2024	\$150,000,000
2025	\$150,000,000
2026	\$150,000,000
2027	\$150,000,000

Sec. 2. School construction projects. The State Board of Education shall amend its rule Chapter 61: Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, Section 15 regarding administering funding for integrated, consolidated 9-16 educational facilities to allow the governing body of one school administrative unit with multiple high schools together with a career and technical high school to apply for funding for a proposed school. Rules adopted to comply with this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 3. Fiscal year 2024-25 funding. In fiscal year 2024-25, a school administrative unit is eligible to apply for funding for both a major capital school construction project under State Board of Education rule Chapter 61: Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects and an integrated, consolidated 9-16 educational facility under Section 15 of that rule.

Sec. 4. Study. The Commissioner of Education shall conduct a study for the purpose of making recommendations on researching and identifying alternative pathways or revenue sources to finance school construction needs in the State. The commissioner shall report the recommendations of the study, including any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 6, 2023. The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.