



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

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Legislative Document

No. 2134

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H.P. 1524

House of Representatives, March 5, 2020

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**An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Infrastructure  
To Improve Transportation and Internet Connections**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)  
Cosponsored by Senator BREEN of Cumberland and  
Representative: DUNPHY of Old Town.



1 Provides funds for multimodal facilities or equipment related to transit, freight and  
2 passenger railroads, aviation, ports, harbors, marine transportation and active  
3 transportation projects and associated activities.

4 Total \$15,000,000

5 **Sec. A-6. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue.** Sections 1 to 5 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. A-7. 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. A-8. 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. A-9. 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 November 2020. The municipal officers of this State shall  
21 notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the  
22 manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or  
23 rejection of this Part by voting on the following question:

24 "Do you favor a \$105,000,000 bond issue for improvement of highways  
25 and bridges statewide and for multimodal facilities or equipment related  
26 to transit, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, ports, harbors, marine  
27 transportation and active transportation projects, to be used to match an  
28 estimated \$275,000,000 in federal and other funds?"

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 B**

2 **Sec. B-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 \$15,000,000 for the purposes described in section 6 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. B-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. B-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. B-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. B-5. Disbursement of bond proceeds.** The ConnectME Authority, in  
23 consultation with the Department of Economic and Community Development, shall  
24 oversee the disbursement of bond proceeds and matching funds authorized pursuant to  
25 this Part.

26 **Sec. B-6. Allocations from General Fund bond issue.** The proceeds of the  
27 sale of the bonds authorized under this Part must be expended as designated in the  
28 following schedule.

29 **CONNECTME AUTHORITY**

30 Provides funds to the ConnectME Authority, as established in the Maine Revised  
31 Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 33-F, for investments in high-speed  
32 internet infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas.

33 Total \$15,000,000

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

1           **Sec. B-8. Appropriation balances at year-end.** At the end of each fiscal year,  
2 all 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  
4 bonds lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of general  
5 obligation bonds.

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

11           **Sec. B-10. Referendum for ratification; submission at election; form of**  
12 **question; effective date.** This Part must be submitted to the legal voters of the State at  
13 a statewide election held in November 2020. The municipal officers of this State shall  
14 notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the  
15 manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or  
16 rejection of this Part by voting on the following question:

17                         "Do you favor a \$15,000,000 bond issue to invest in high-speed internet  
18                         infrastructure for unserved and underserved areas, to be used to match up  
19                         to \$30,000,000 in federal, private, local or other funds?"

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           The funds provided by the bond issue under Part A, in the amount of \$105,000,000,  
33 will be used for improvement of highways and bridges statewide and for multimodal  
34 facilities or equipment related to transit, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, ports,  
35 harbors, marine transportation and active transportation projects, to be matched by an  
36 estimated \$275,000,000 in federal and other funds.

37           The funds provided by the bond issue under Part B, in the amount of \$15,000,000,  
38 will be used for investments in high-speed internet infrastructure for unserved and  
39 underserved areas, to be matched by up to \$30,000,000 in federal, private, local or other  
40 funds.