



**Testimony by William Norbert
Governmental Affairs and Communications Manager
in Support of L.D. 2156**

***An Act to Provide for the 2026 and 2027 Allocations of
the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds***

January 22, 2026

Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

My name is Bill Norbert. I am the Governmental Affairs Manager at the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME). I am here to testify in support of L.D. 2156, *An Act to Provide for the 2026 and 2027 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds*.

FAME and the other private activity bond issuers would like to thank Senator Curry for sponsoring the bill this year.

This bill is presented annually on behalf of the various state issuers of private activity bonds: the State Treasurer; FAME; the Maine Municipal Bond Bank; and the Maine State Housing Authority. It establishes the allocations of the state ceiling on issuance of tax-exempt bonds for calendar years 2026 and 2027. This allocation allows for the issuance of certain bonds for purposes determined by Congress and the Maine Legislature to be for the public's benefit. Maine's private activity bond issuers assemble annually to discuss how best to allocate the bond cap for expected and potential projects. We are all in unanimous support of this authorizing legislation.

No state money is involved, and the state is not "on the hook" for any of the bonds issued. Nor would the bill have any net effect on the state's general or moral obligation debt.

Private activity bonds help to finance projects with public benefits, like affordable housing, infrastructure (airports, ports, mass transit, roads, rail), utilities (water, sewage, waste disposal, energy), and nonprofit facilities (hospitals, universities) by using tax-exempt debt for private entities, thus lowering costs for public good. They also support student loan financing, first-time homebuyer mortgages, and manufacturing facilities. FAME typically issues tax-exempt bonds for the benefit of certain for-profit

manufacturers, solid waste companies, and 501(c)(3) organizations. We also issue bonds for alternative/private student loans.

Attached to my testimony is a colored graph with statistics to help you better understand how the bond caps have been allocated among issuers over the years.

Finally, we are offering a technical language amendment today to clarify a couple of things we missed when reviewing the Revisor's final draft of the bill. Happily, it does not change any of the figures or totals in the bill. First, we need to make clear in Section 2 on Page 1 (FAME's section) that, of the additional \$100,000,000 of the state ceiling being allocated to FAME for calendar year 2026, only \$47,625,000 (not \$100,000,000) was previously unallocated and that \$52,375,000 was reallocated to FAME from MaineHousing. Second, in Section 4 on Page 2 (MaineHousing's section), we need to state that the reduction of \$52,375,000 (the difference between the original \$100,000,000 and the newly proposed \$47,625,000) has been reallocated to FAME.

Thank you for your consideration of the bill and amendment. I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

Draft FAME Amendment to LD 2156

Committee Amendment “ ” to S.P. 875, L.D. 2156, “An Act to Provide for the 2026 and 2027 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds”

Amend the bill in section 2 (page 1, line 31 in L.D.) by striking “previously unallocated,” and replacing it with the following: ‘\$47,625,000 of which had been previously unallocated and \$52,375,000 of which had been allocated to the Maine State Housing Authority.’

Amend the bill in section 4 (page 2, line 3 in L.D.) by adding the following language after the numerals “\$47,625,000” so it reads ‘with \$52,375,000 being reallocated to the Finance Authority of Maine.’

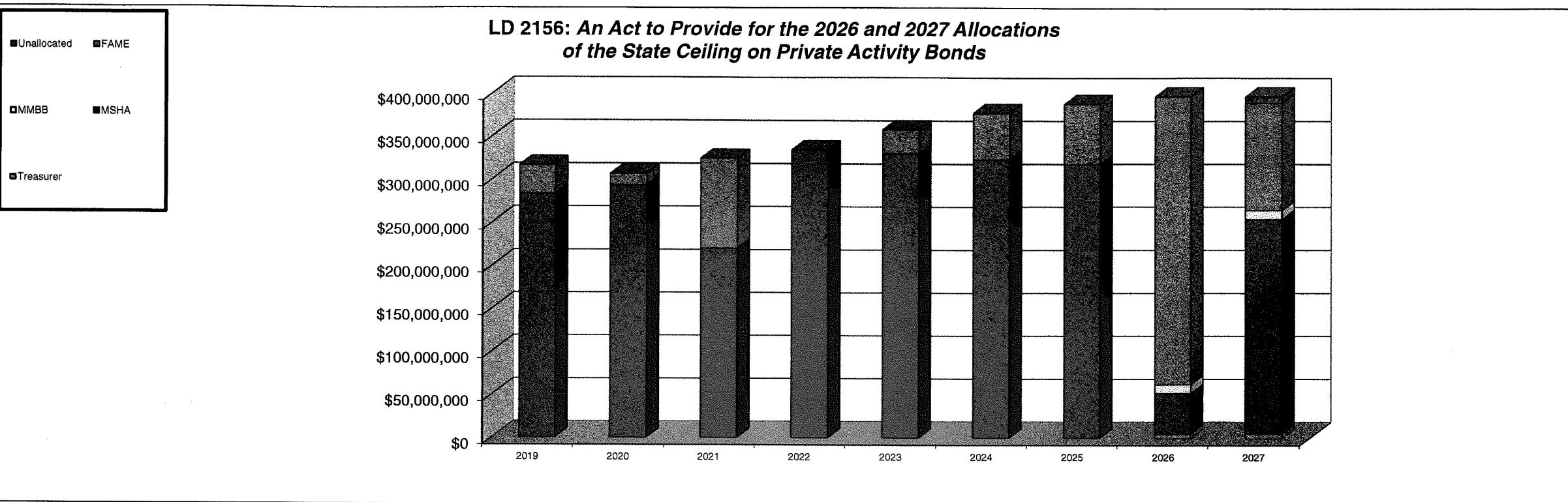
Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment clarifies certain portions of the bill related to the Finance Authority of Maine and the Maine State Housing Authority by specifying amounts and sources of the bond cap that were previously unallocated and amounts and sources that are now being reallocated.

LD 2156: PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND CAP

Prepared by the Finance Authority of Maine



	Final 2019	Final 2020	Final 2021	Final 2022	Final 2023	Final 2024	Final 2025	Proposed 2026	Proposed 2027
Treasurer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
MSHA	284,145,648	293,775,000	220,559,936	335,115,000	331,732,255	324,232,578	318,780,000	47,625,000	250,000,000
MMBB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000,000	10,000,000
FAME	32,599,352	13,000,000	104,435,064	-	27,112,745	53,997,422	70,000,000	335,000,000	125,000,000
Unallocated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,625,000
Totals	\$ 316,745,000	\$ 306,775,000	\$ 324,995,000	\$ 335,115,000	\$ 358,845,000	\$ 378,230,000	\$ 388,780,000	\$ 397,625,000	\$ 397,625,000