

An Act To Clarify the Bonding Authority of Counties for Capital Maintenance Projects

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRS §939 is enacted to read:

§939. Bonding for capital maintenance projects

Notwithstanding any county charter provision to the contrary ~~except as set forth in this section~~, a county board of commissioners may issue tax-supported bonds, notes or other securities and financial instruments of the county for capital maintenance projects in any year in an amount up to 1/10 of one mill based upon the county's property valuation provided 2/3 of the elected members of the board of commissioners and 2/3 of all members of the county budget or finance authority vote in favor of the issuance. A county board of commissioners may not issue tax-supported bonds, notes or other securities and financial instruments under this section until any tax-supported bonds, notes or other securities and financial instruments previously issued under this section have been paid in full unless the issuance of the additional tax-supported bonds, notes or other securities and financial instruments is approved through a county bond referendum election.

SUMMARY

The amendment requires a 2/3 vote of the elected members of both the board of commissioners and the county budget or finance authority be obtained before a county board of commissioners is permitted to issue tax-supported bonds, notes or other securities and financial instruments of the county for capital maintenance projects. The amendment prohibits a county from issuing additional financial instruments before the instruments issued under this section are paid in full or issuance of additional financing has been approved through a county bond referendum election.