132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document	**No. 1182**
H.P. 787	House of Representatives, March 20, 2025

An Act to Grant the Rockland Port District an Increase in Its Borrowing Capacity and Include Sustainable Aquaculture and Marine Industries in Its Charter

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GEIGER of Rockland.
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.

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

Sec. 1. P&SL 1951, c. 108, §1, as amended by P&SL 1957, c. 78, §1, is further amended to read:

Sec. 1. Rockland Port District, incorporated. The inhabitants of and the territory within the city of Rockland, in the county of Knox, are hereby created a body politic and corporate under the name of "Rockland Port District" for the purpose of purchasing, maintaining and operating within said district wharves, landing places and all other appurtenances necessary for the operation of an adequate passenger and freight transportation service by water and of sustainable aquaculture and marine industries.

Sec. 2. P&SL 1951, c. 108, §4, as amended by P&SL 2003, c. 7, §1, is further amended to read:

Sec. 4. How financed. To procure funds for the purposes of this act, and for such other expenses as may be necessary to carry out said purposes, the said district, by its trustees, is hereby authorized from time to time to borrow money and to issue its bonds or notes therefor, but ~~shall~~ may not incur a total indebtedness at any one time outstanding exceeding the sum of ~~$600,000~~ $6,000,000. Said bonds may be issued to mature serially or for such periods as the trustees may determine. If the former, provisions ~~shall~~ must be made for the retirement of not less than 7 1/2% of the total issue annually after the first 2 years. If the latter, a sinking fund equal to at least 7 1/2% of the total issue ~~shall~~ must be set up annually after the first 2 years. Each bond and note ~~shall~~ must have inscribed upon its face the words "Rockland Port District," ~~shall~~ must bear interest at such rates as the trustees ~~shall~~ may determine, payable semiannually, and ~~shall be~~ is subject to such other provisions as the trustees ~~shall~~ may determine. Bonds and notes issued by said district may be made callable with or without premium on any interest date. All notes or bonds issued by said district ~~shall~~ must be signed by the treasurer and countersigned by the president of said district and if coupon bonds be issued, each coupon ~~shall~~ must be attested by the facsimile signature of the treasurer printed thereon. Said bonds and notes ~~shall be~~ are legal obligations of said district, which is hereby declared to be a quasi-municipal corporation within the meaning of section 136 of chapter 53 of the Revised Statutes of 1954, and all the provisions of said section ~~shall be~~ are applicable thereto. The said bonds and notes ~~shall be~~ are legal investments for trust companies and savings banks.

Sec. 3. P&SL 1951, c. 108, §5, as repealed and replaced by P&SL 1957, c. 78, §3, is amended to read:

Sec. 5. Powers. The district, through its trustees, is hereby authorized and empowered to acquire by purchase, lease or take by the exercise of the right of eminent domain, as hereinafter provided, or otherwise, and hold any land or real estate or easement therein or wharf or dock and to do all that is necessary or desirable to establish, maintain and operate in the district adequate commercial docking and wharf facilities ~~in the district~~ and any facilities considered necessary to support sustainable aquaculture and marine industries. All of such property, wherever located, ~~shall be~~ is exempt from taxation; provided, however, that nothing herein contained ~~shall~~ may be construed as authorizing said district to take by right of eminent domain any of the property or facilities of the city of Rockland or of any other public service corporation or district used or acquired for further use by the owner thereof in performance of a public duty unless expressly authorized thereto by subsequent act of the Legislature.

Sec. 4. P&SL 1951, c. 108, §6-A, as enacted by P&SL 1957, c. 78, §5, is amended to read:

Sec. 6-A. Authority to receive property from the city of Rockland. The city of Rockland is hereby authorized to sell and convey to said district any property, real, personal or mixed, now or hereafter owned or held by said city of Rockland for commercial docking and wharf facilities used in connection with passenger and freight transportation service by water <u>or for facilities capable of supporting sustainable aquaculture or marine industries</u> and any sum or sums of money ~~which~~ <u>that</u> the city of Rockland may raise either by taxation or otherwise to be used for such purposes by said district.

SUMMARY

This bill raises the debt limit of the Rockland Port District from $600,000 to $6,000,000 and allows the district to purchase, maintain and operate facilities supporting sustainable aquaculture and marine industries.