



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2248

H.P. 1441

House of Representatives, March 5, 2024

An Act to Reduce the Reporting Requirements for Special Utility Districts and to Require the Maine Public Utility Financing Bank to File a Report with the Legislature

Reported by Representative STOVER of Boothbay for the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 955, subsection 4.

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive script.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5704**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C,
3 §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further
4 amended to read:

5 **§5704. Reporting by special districts**

6 ~~Each~~ Upon request from the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, a special district in the State,
7 whether or not its boundaries are coterminous with the boundaries of a municipality,
8 including districts established for the purposes of providing water, sewer, electric,
9 educational, health, transportation, solid waste management, parking or recreation services,
10 or any other public purpose, shall file an annual report of its total outstanding debt.

11 **1. Content.** These reports ~~shall~~ must include debts by:

- 12 A. Amount;
- 13 B. Purpose;
- 14 C. Creditors;
- 15 D. Date incurred;
- 16 E. Interest rate;
- 17 F. Amortization period;
- 18 G. Amount of annual principal payments and annual interest payments; and
- 19 H. Assessments and contributions received from municipalities in the district to
20 service the debts.

21 **2. Filing; public records.** The reports ~~shall~~ must be filed within 45 days of the end
22 date of ~~each~~ the fiscal year in which the Maine Municipal Bond Bank made the request
23 under subsection 1. The reports ~~shall~~ must be filed with the Maine Municipal Bond Bank
24 upon forms provided by it. Information reported under this section is a public record.

25 **Sec. 2. Maine Public Utility Financing Bank report.** By December 15, 2025,
26 the Maine Public Utility Financing Bank, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
27 5, section 12004-F, subsection 5, shall file a report on its activities during the 10-year period
28 beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2024 to the joint standing committee
29 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utility matters.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local
32 Government pursuant to Title 3, section 955, subsection 4 for the sole purpose of turning
33 the draft into a printed bill for referral back to the committee for public hearing and
34 subsequent processing in the normal course of committee work. The bill implements
35 recommendations made as a result of the committee's review of the government evaluation
36 report submitted to the committee by the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. The bill requires
37 the Maine Public Utility Financing Bank to submit a report by December 15, 2025 on its
38 activities for a 10-year period to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
39 jurisdiction over energy and utility matters. The bill also changes the requirement in
40 current law that each special district in the State file an annual report with the Maine

1 Municipal Bond Bank and instead requires such a report only upon a request by the Maine
2 Municipal Bond Bank.