

**2016 -- H 7992**

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LC005552  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

**A N A C T**

**AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN TO FINANCE HEALTH, SAFETY AND  
FIRE-CODE RELATED REPAIRS, ALTERATIONS, RENOVATIONS, IMPROVEMENTS  
AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE TOWN AND ALL ATTENDANT  
EXPENSES AND BY THE ISSUANCE OF NOT MORE THAN \$10,000,000 GENERAL  
OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES OR OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS  
THEREFOR**

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, Abney, and Reilly

Date Introduced: March 24, 2016

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. The town of Middletown is hereby empowered, in addition to authority  
2 previously granted, to issue bonds and other evidences of indebtedness (hereinafter "bonds") to an  
3 amount not exceeding ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) from time to time under its corporate  
4 name and seal. The bonds of each issue may be issued in the form of zero coupon bonds, capital  
5 appreciation bonds, serial bonds or term bonds or a combination thereof and shall be payable  
6 either by maturity of principal in the case of serial bonds or by mandatory sinking fund  
7 installments in the case of term bonds, in annual installments of principal, the first installment to  
8 be not later than five (5) years and the last installment not later than thirty (30) years after the date  
9 of the bonds. The amount of principal appreciation each year on any bonds, after the date of  
10 original issuance, shall not be considered to be principal indebtedness for the purposes of any  
11 constitutional or statutory debt limit or any other limitation. The appreciation of principal after  
12 the date of original issue shall be considered interest. Only the original principal amount shall be  
13 counted in determining the principal amount so issued and any interest component shall be  
14 disregarded. For each issue the amounts payable annually for principal and interest combined  
15 either shall be as nearly equal from year to year as is practicable in the opinion of the officers  
16 authorized to issue the bonds, or shall be arranged in accordance with a schedule providing for a

1 more rapid amortization of principal.

2 SECTION 2. The bonds shall be signed by the town finance director and by the president  
3 of the town council and shall be issued and sold in such amounts as the town council may  
4 authorize. The manner of sale, denominations, maturities, interest rates and other terms,  
5 conditions and details of any bonds or notes issued under this act may be fixed by the proceedings  
6 of the town council authorizing the issue or by separate resolution of the town council or, to the  
7 extent provisions for these matters are not so made, they may be fixed by the officers authorized  
8 to sign the bonds or notes. Notwithstanding anything contained in this act, the town may enter  
9 into financing agreements for the projects with the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building  
10 Corporation ("RIHEBC") or any agency or instrumentality of the State of Rhode Island  
11 succeeding to its functions. Interest coupons (if any) shall bear the manual or facsimile signature  
12 of the town finance director. The proceeds derived from the sale of the bonds shall be delivered to  
13 the town finance director, and such proceeds exclusive of premiums and accrued interest shall be  
14 expended for: (1) Health, safety and fire-code related repairs, alterations, renovations,  
15 improvements and equipping of school facilities in the town and all attendant expenses; (2) For  
16 payment of the principal or interest on temporary notes issued under section 3; (3) In payment of  
17 capitalized interest on bonds or notes; (4) In repayment of advances under 2 section 4; or (5) In  
18 payment of related costs of issuance of any bonds or notes. No purchaser of any bonds or notes  
19 under this act shall be in any way responsible for the proper application of the proceeds derived  
20 from the sales thereof. The project shall be carried out and all contracts made therefor on behalf  
21 of the town by the town council. The proceeds of bonds or notes issued under this act, any  
22 applicable federal or state assistance and other monies referred to in section 6 and 9, shall be  
23 deemed appropriated for the purposes of this act without further action than that required by this  
24 act. The bond issue authorized by this act may be consolidated for the purposes of issuance and  
25 sale with any other bond issue of the town heretofore or hereafter authorized, provided that,  
26 notwithstanding any such consolidation, the proceeds from the sale of the bonds authorized by  
27 this act shall be expended for the purposes set forth above.

28 SECTION 3. The town council may by resolution authorize the issue from time to time of  
29 interest bearing or discounted notes in anticipation of the issue of bonds or in anticipation of the  
30 receipt of federal or state aid for the purposes of this act. The amount of original notes issued in  
31 anticipation of bonds may not exceed the amount of bonds which may be issued under this act  
32 and the amount of original notes issued in anticipation of federal or state aid may not exceed the  
33 amount of available federal or state aid as estimated by the town finance director. Temporary  
34 notes issued hereunder shall be signed by the manual or facsimile signatures of the town finance

1 director and by the president of the town council and shall be payable within five (5) years from  
2 their respective dates, but the principal of and interest on notes issued for a shorter period may be  
3 renewed or paid from time to time by the issue of other notes thereunder, provided the period  
4 from the date of an original note to the maturity or any note issued to renew or pay the same debt  
5 or the interest thereon shall not exceed five (5) years. Any temporary notes in anticipation of  
6 bonds issued under this section may be refunded prior to the maturity of the notes by the issuance  
7 of additional temporary notes, provided that no such refunding shall result in any amount of such  
8 temporary notes outstanding at any one time in excess of two hundred percent (200%) of the  
9 amount of bonds which may be issued under this act, and provided further that if the issuance of  
10 any such refunding notes results in any amount of such temporary notes outstanding at any one  
11 time in excess of the amount of bonds which may be issued under this act, the proceeds of such  
12 refunding notes shall be deposited in a separate fund established with the bank which is paying  
13 agent for the notes being refunded. Pending their use to pay the notes being refunded, monies in  
14 the fund shall be invested for the benefit of the town by the paying agent at the direction of the  
15 town finance director in any investment permitted under section 5. The monies in the fund and  
16 any investments held as a part of the fund shall be held in trust and shall be applied by the paying  
17 agent solely to the payment or prepayment of the principal of and interest on the notes being  
18 refunded. Upon payment of all principal of and interest on the notes, any excess monies in the  
19 fund shall be distributed to the town. The town may pay the principal of and interest on notes in  
20 full from other than the issuance of refunding notes prior to the issuance of bonds pursuant to  
21 section 1 hereof. In such case, the town's authority to issue bonds or notes in anticipation of bonds  
22 under this act shall continue provided that: (1) The town council passes a resolution evidencing  
23 the town's intent to pay off the notes without extinguishing the authority to issue bonds or notes;  
24 and (2) That the period from the date of an original note to the maturity date of any other note  
25 shall not exceed five (5) years.

26 SECTION 4. Pending any authorization or issue of bonds hereunder or pending or in lieu  
27 of any authorization or issue of notes hereunder, the town finance director, with the approval of  
28 the town council, may, to the extent that bonds or notes may be issued hereunder, apply funds in  
29 the treasury of the town to the purposes specified in section 2, such advances to be repaid without  
30 interest from the proceeds of bonds or notes subsequently issued or from the proceeds of  
31 applicable federal or state assistance or from other available funds.

32 SECTION 5. Any proceeds of bonds or notes issued hereunder or of any applicable  
33 federal or state assistance, pending their expenditure, may be deposited or invested by the town  
34 finance director in demand deposits, time deposits or savings deposits in banks which are

1 members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or in obligations issued or guaranteed by  
2 the United States of America or by any agency or instrumentality thereof or as may be provided  
3 in any other applicable law of the state of Rhode Island or resolution of the town council or  
4 pursuant to an investment policy of the town.

5 SECTION 6. Any accrued interest received upon the sale of bonds or notes hereunder  
6 shall be applied to the payment of the first interest due thereon. Any premiums arising from the  
7 sale of bonds or notes hereunder and any earnings or net profit realized from the deposit or  
8 investment of funds hereunder shall, in the discretion of the finance director, be applied to the  
9 cost of preparing, issuing, and marketing bonds or notes hereunder to the extent not otherwise  
10 provided, to the payment of the cost of the project, to the payment of the principal of or interest  
11 on bonds or notes issued hereunder or to any one or more of the foregoing. The cost of preparing,  
12 issuing and marketing bonds or notes hereunder may also, in the discretion of the town finance  
13 director, be met from bond or note proceeds exclusive of accrued interest or from other monies  
14 available therefor. Any balance of bond or note proceeds remaining after payment of the cost of  
15 the projects and the cost of preparing, issuing and marketing bonds or notes hereunder shall be  
16 applied to the payment of the principal of or interest on bonds or notes issued hereunder. To the  
17 extent permitted by applicable federal laws, any earnings or net profit realized from the deposit or  
18 investment of funds hereunder may, upon receipt, be added to and dealt with as part of the  
19 revenues of the town from property taxes. In exercising any discretion under this section, the  
20 town finance director shall be governed by any instructions adopted by resolution of the town  
21 council.

22 SECTION 7. All bonds and notes issued under this act and the debts evidenced thereby  
23 shall be obligatory on the town in the same manner and to the same extent as other debts lawfully  
24 contracted by it and shall be excepted from the operation of §45-12-2 of the general laws. No  
25 such obligation shall at any time be included in the debt of the town for the purpose of  
26 ascertaining its borrowing capacity. The town shall annually appropriate a sum sufficient to pay  
27 the principal and interest coming due within the year on bonds and notes issued hereunder to the  
28 extent that monies therefor are not otherwise provided. If such sum is not appropriated, it shall  
29 nevertheless be added to the annual tax levy. In order to provide such sum in each year and  
30 notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all taxable property in the town shall be  
31 subject to ad valorem taxation by the town without limitation as to rate or amount.

32 SECTION 8. Any bonds or notes issued under the provisions of this act, if properly  
33 executed by officers of the town in office on the date of execution, shall be valid and binding  
34 according to their terms notwithstanding that before the delivery thereof and payment therefor

1 any or all of such officers shall for any reason have ceased to hold office.

2 SECTION 9. The town, acting by resolution of its town council is authorized to apply for,  
3 contract for and expend any federal or state advances or other grants or assistance which may be  
4 available for the purposes of this act, and any such expenditures may be in addition to other  
5 monies provided in this act. To the extent of any inconsistency between any law of this state and  
6 any applicable federal law or regulation, the latter shall prevail. Federal and state advances, with  
7 interest where applicable, whether contracted for prior to or after the effective date of this act,  
8 may be repaid as project costs under section 2.

9 SECTION 10. Bonds and notes may be issued under this act without obtaining the  
10 approval of any governmental agency or the taking of any proceedings or the happening of any  
11 conditions except as specifically required by this act for such issue. In carrying out any project  
12 financed in whole or in part under this act, including where applicable the condemnation of any  
13 land or interest in land, and in the levy and collection of assessments or other charges permitted  
14 by law on account of any such project, all action shall be taken which is necessary to meet  
15 constitutional requirements whether or not such action is otherwise required by statute; but the  
16 validity of bonds and notes issued hereunder shall in no way depend upon the validity or  
17 occurrence of such action.

18 SECTION 11. All or any portion of the authority to issue bonds and notes under this act  
19 may be extinguished by resolution of the town council, without further action by the general  
20 assembly, seven (7) years after the effective date of this act.

21 SECTION 12. The town finance director and the president of the town council, on behalf  
22 of the town, are hereby authorized to execute such documents or other papers as either of them  
23 deem necessary or desirable to carry out the intent of this act and are also authorized to take all  
24 actions and execute all documents or agreements necessary to comply with federal tax and  
25 securities laws, which documents or agreements may have a term coextensive with the maturity  
26 of the bonds authorized hereby, including Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange  
27 Commission (the Rule) and to execute and deliver a continuing disclosure agreement or  
28 certificate in connection with the bonds or notes in the form as shall be deemed advisable by such  
29 officers in order to comply with the Rule.

30 SECTION 13. The question of the approval of this act shall be submitted to the electors  
31 of the town at a general, special or local election (other than a primary) to be held prior to  
32 December 31, 2016, as shall be designated by the town council. The question shall be submitted  
33 in substantially the following form: "Shall an act, passed at the 2016 session of the general  
34 assembly, entitled 'AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN TO FINANCE

1 HEALTH, SAFETY AND FIRE-CODE RELATED REPAIRS, ALTERATIONS,  
2 RENOVATIONS, IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE  
3 TOWN AND ALL ATTENDANT EXPENSES BY THE ISSUANCE OF NOT MORE THAN  
4 \$10,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES OR OTHER EVIDENCES OF  
5 INDEBTEDNESS THEREFOR' be approved?" and the warning for the election shall contain the  
6 question to be submitted. From the time the election is warned and until it is held, it shall be the  
7 duty of the town clerk to keep a copy of the act available at his office for public inspection, but  
8 the validity of the election shall not be affected by this requirement.

9 SECTION 14. This section and the foregoing section shall take effect upon the passage of  
10 this act. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon the approval of this act by a majority of  
11 those voting on the question at the election prescribed by the foregoing section.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN TO FINANCE HEALTH, SAFETY AND  
FIRE-CODE RELATED REPAIRS, ALTERATIONS, RENOVATIONS, IMPROVEMENTS  
AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE TOWN AND ALL ATTENDANT  
EXPENSES AND BY THE ISSUANCE OF NOT MORE THAN \$10,000,000 GENERAL  
OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES OR OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS  
THEREFOR

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1           This act authorizes the Town of Middletown to issue not more than \$10,000,000 general  
2 obligation bonds and notes or other evidences of indebtedness to finance health, safety and fire-  
3 code related repairs, alterations, renovations, improvements and equipping of school facilities in  
4 the town and all attendant expenses.

5           Sections 13 and 14 shall take effect upon passage. The remainder of the act takes effect  
6 upon approval of the question provided for in Section 13.

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