

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1450

S. P. 529

In Senate, March 6, 1963

Referred to Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Legislative Re-apportionment. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Farris of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-THREE

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Revise Article VI
Relating to the Judicial Power.**

Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two-thirds of each branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of this State be proposed:

Constitution, Article VI, repealed and replaced. Article VI of the Constitution is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

‘ARTICLE VI.

Judicial Power.

Section 1. The judicial power of this State shall be vested in a Supreme Judicial Court, and such other courts as the Legislature shall from time to time establish.

Section 2. The Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court and the judges of other courts shall, at stated times receive a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office, but they shall receive no other fee or reward for their services as justices or judges.

Section 3. The Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court shall be obliged to give their opinion upon important questions of law, and upon solemn occasions, when required by the Governor, Senate or House of Representatives.

Section 4. All judicial officers shall hold their offices for the term of seven years from the time of their respective appointments (unless sooner removed by impeachment or by address of both branches of the Legislature to the executive,

provided further that justices of the peace may be removed from office in such manner as the Legislature may provide) and no longer, unless reappointed thereto.

Section 5. No Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court or any other court shall hold office under the United States or any other state, nor under this State, except as justice of the peace or as member of the Judicial Council.'

Section 6. A judge of probate holding office on the date this amendment becomes effective shall continue to hold such office until the term for which he has been elected shall expire or he otherwise ceases to serve. Vacancies in the office of judge of probate occurring subsequent to such effective date whether by expiration of the term to which a judge has been elected or otherwise shall be filled by appointment by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council. This Section 6 of this Article VI need not be printed as part of the Constitution, and this Section 6 of this Article VI of the Constitution shall hereafter be omitted in any printed copy of the Constitution or amendments thereto.'

Form of question and date when amendment shall be voted upon. Resolved: That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations of this State are empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of Senators and Representatives at the next general election in the month of November or special state-wide election on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following the passage of this resolve to give in their votes upon the amendment proposed in the foregoing resolution, and the question shall be:

"Shall the Constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the Legislature to Revise Article VI Relating to the Judicial Power?"

The inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, and shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed against the words "Yes" or "No" their opinion of the same. The ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the office of the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for Governor and Members of the Legislature, and the Governor and Council shall count the same, and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the amendment shall thereupon, as of the date of said proclamation, become a part of the Constitution.

Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved: That the Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing resolve, accompanied by a copy thereof.