

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 573**

H. P. 438

House of Representatives, February 3, 1971

Referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Starbird of Kingman Township.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Permit  
the Governor to Veto Items Contained in Bills Appropriating Money.**

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**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 IV, Part Third, Section 2, amended.** Section 2 of Part Third of Article IV of the Constitution is amended by adding at the end, a new paragraph, as follows:

If any bill presented to the Governor contains several items of appropriation of money, he may object to or reduce one or more of such items, while approving other portions of the bill. In such case he shall append to the bill at the time of signing it a statement of the item or items which he declines to approve or which he has reduced, together with his reasons therefor and shall send a copy of such statement to both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and such item or items shall not take effect unless passed over the Governor's objection as in this section provided.

**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 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 permit the Governor to veto items contained in bills appropriating money?”

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 review 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 January, 1973, 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.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this resolution is reflected in the title.