

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 2332

H. P. 1840

House of Representatives, January 10, 1974

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Simpson of Standish.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FOUR

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RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine  
to Provide for Equal Rights.

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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 I, Sections 25 and 26, additional. Article I of the Constitution is amended by adding 2 new Sections 25 and 26 to read as follows:

Section 25. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the State of Maine on account of sex.

Section 26. The Maine Legislature shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of section 25.

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 resolution 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 provide for equal rights?"

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 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 resolution, accompanied by a copy thereof.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

1. To determine if the people of the State of Maine want to adopt an ERA to the State of Maine Constitution similar to the one being proposed to the U. S. Constitution on which we have 5 more years to decide the question.
2. To allow every voter of Maine an opportunity to express his or her opinion about the State ERA by a vote in the general election in November, 1974.