

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 13

S. P. 8

Office of the Clerk of the House

Filed December 15, 1976, under Joint Rule No. 6 by Senator Curtis of Penobscot. To be printed and delivered to the Senate of the 108th Legislature.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Senator Curtis of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Reducing the Size of the House of Representatives to 99 Members and Establishing the Size of the Senate at 33 Members.

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, Art. IV, Pt. 1, § 2, 1st sentence, as amended by CR 1975, c. 5, is further amended to read:

The House of Representatives shall consist of ~~one hundred and fifty one~~ **ninety-nine** members, to be elected by the qualified electors, and hold their office two years from the day next preceding the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in January following the general election.

Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 1, § 2, 4th sentence, as repealed and replaced by CR 1975, c. 1, is amended to read:

The number of Representatives **established for the following legislative biennium** shall be divided into the number of inhabitants of the State exclusive of foreigners not naturalized according to the latest Federal Decennial Census or a State Census previously ordered by the Legislature to coincide with the Federal Decennial Census, to determine a median population figure for each Representative District.

Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 2, § 1, is amended to read:

Section 1. Number of Senators. The Senate shall consist of ~~an odd number of Senators, not less than thirty one nor more than thirty five~~ **thirty-three** Senators, elected at the same time and for the same term as Representatives by the qualified electors of the districts into which the State shall be from time to time divided.

Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 2, § 2, 2nd sentence, as repealed and replaced by CR 1975, c. 1, is amended to read:

The Legislature which shall convene in 1983 and every tenth year thereafter shall cause the State to be divided into districts for the choice of a Senator from each district ~~using the same method as provided in Article IV, Part First, Section 2 for apportionment of Representative Districts.~~ **Each Senatorial District shall be comprised of three contiguous districts established under Article IV, Part First, Section 2 and the population of each Senate District shall, as nearly as practicable, be equal to that of every other Senatorial District.**

Form of question; date when amendments shall be voted upon; effective date. 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 statewide election on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following the passage of this resolution to give in their votes upon the amendments proposed in the foregoing resolution, and the question shall be:

“Shall the Constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the Legislature to reduce the size of the House of Representatives from 151 to 99 and establish the size of the Senate at 33?”

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 shall review the same, and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of the amendments, the Governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and that part relating to Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 2, § 2, 2nd sentence of this resolution, shall become a part of the Constitution on the day next preceding the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in January 1983, and those parts relating to Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 1, § 2, 1st and 4th sentences and Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 2, § 1 of this resolution shall become part of the Constitution on the day next preceding the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in January, 1985.

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

The purpose of this resolution is to reduce the size of the House of Representative from 151 to 99 and establish the size of the Senate at 33.