

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2198

S. P. 749

In Senate, March 15, 1978

Reported out by Joint Standing Committee on Education pursuant to Joint Order S. P. 744.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-EIGHT

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide that Taxes Which a School District is Authorized to Levy May be Assessed in any Cost-sharing Formula Mutually Agreeable to the Communities Involved.

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. IX, § 8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Section 8. Taxation; intangible property; permits valuation of certain lands upon current use; proviso; school districts. All taxes upon real and personal estate, assessed by authority of this State, shall be apportioned and assessed equally according to the just value thereof.

1. The Legislature shall have power to levy a tax upon intangible personal property at such rate as it deems wise and equitable without regard to the rate applied to other classes of property.

2. The Legislature shall have power to provide for the assessment of the following types of real estate whenever situated in accordance with a valuation

based upon the current use thereof and in accordance with such conditions as the Legislature may enact:

- A. Farms and agricultural lands, timberlands and woodlands;
- B. Open space lands which are used for recreation or the enjoyment of scenic natural beauty; and
- C. Lands used for game management or wildlife sanctuaries.

In implementing paragraphs A, B and C, the Legislature shall provide that any change of use higher than those set forth in paragraphs A, B and C, except when the change is occasioned by a transfer resulting from the exercise or threatened exercise of the power of eminent domain, shall result in the imposition of a minimum penalty equal to the tax which would have been imposed over the 5 years preceding that change of use had that real estate been assessed at its highest and best use, less all taxes paid on that real estate over the preceding 5 years, and interest, upon such reasonable and equitable basis as the Legislature shall determine.

3. The Legislature shall have power to provide that taxes, which it may authorize a School Administrative District or a community school district to levy, may be assessed on real, personal and intangible property in accordance with any cost-sharing formula which it may authorize.

Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date. Resolved: That the city aldermen, town selectmen and plantation assessors of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, 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 vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

"Shall the Constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the Legislature to provide that taxes which a school district is authorized to levy may be assessed in any cost-sharing formula mutually agreeable to the communities involved?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below the words "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns, and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes are in favor of the amendment, the

Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment shall become part of the Constitution on the date of the proclamation.

Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved: That the Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this resolution necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment allows certain School Administrative Districts and community school districts to share costs on any basis which it deems wise and just.