

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 363

H. P. 286

House of Representatives, February 6, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Birt of East Millinocket.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide That the House of Representatives Shall be Reduced From 151 to 132 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, first 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~~ **thirty-two** members, to be elected by the qualified electors, and hold their office two years from the day next preceding the first Wednesday in December following the general election.

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 a 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 of Maine be amended to reduce the size of the House of Representatives from 151 to 132 members?”

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 word “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 first Wednesday in December, 1984.

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 constitutional resolution reduces the size of the House of Representatives from 151 to 132 members, beginning with the Legislature which convenes in December, 1984. This delay permits the necessary House reapportionment which the constitution now requires be done by the Legislature convening in 1983.