

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(After Deadline)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1575

H. P. 1413

House of Representatives, May 4, 1981

(Approved for introduction by a Majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27)

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Joyce of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for a Four-year Term of Office for Sheriff.

Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two-thirds of each branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of Maine be proposed:

Constitution, Art. IX, § 10, first sentence is amended to read:

Sheriffs shall be elected by the people of their respective counties, by a plurality of the votes given in on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, and shall hold their offices for ~~two~~ four years from the first day of January next after their election, unless sooner removed as hereinafter provided.

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 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 provide for a four-year term of office for the county sheriffs?”

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 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 referendum.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This resolution changes the term of office for county sheriffs from 2 years to 4 years.