

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 461

6  
7 H.P. 344

House of Representatives, February 7, 1985

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Jackson of Harrison.

11 Cosponsored by Senator Webster of Franklin, Senator Danton of York  
and Representative Brown of Livermore Falls.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE  
16

17 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment  
18 to the Constitution of Maine  
19 to Permit the Governor to Veto Items Contained  
20 in Bills Appropriating Money and Retaining the  
21 Power within the Legislature to Override such  
22 Item Vetoes.  
23

24 Constitutional amendment. RESOLVED: Two thirds  
25 of each branch of the Legislature concurring, that  
26 the following amendment to the Constitution of Maine  
27 be proposed:

28 Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 3rd, §2 is amended by  
29 adding at the end the following new paragraph:

30 If any bill presented to the Governor contains  
31 one or more items of appropriation of money, he may  
32 object to one or more of those items, while approving  
33 other portions of the bill. In such a case, he shall  
34 append to the bill at the time of signing it a state-  
35 ment of the item or items which he declines to ap-  
36 prove, together with his reasons therefor, and shall

1 send a copy of that statement to both the House of  
2 Representatives and the Senate, and that item or  
3 items shall not take effect unless passed over the  
4 Governor's objection as provided in this section.

5 Constitutional referendum procedure; form of  
6 question; effective date. Resolved: That the city  
7 aldermen, town selectmen and plantation assessors of  
8 this State shall notify the inhabitants of their re-  
9 spective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in  
10 the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide  
11 election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday  
12 following the first Monday of November following the  
13 passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratifi-  
14 cation of the amendment proposed in this resolution  
15 by voting upon the following question:

16 "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended  
17 as proposed by a resolution of the Legislature to  
18 permit the Governor to veto items contained in  
19 bills appropriating money?"

20 The legal voters of each city, town and  
21 plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and  
22 shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark  
23 placed within the corresponding square below the word  
24 "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received,  
25 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and  
26 plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary  
27 of State in the same manner as votes for members of  
28 the Legislature. The Governor shall review the re-  
29 turns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal  
30 votes are in favor of the amendment, the Governor  
31 shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amend-  
32 ment shall become part of the Constitution on the  
33 date of the proclamation.

34 Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Re-  
35 solved: That the Secretary of State shall prepare  
36 and furnish to each city, town and plantation all  
37 ballots, returns and copies of this resolution neces-  
38 sary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This Constitutional Resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to permit the Governor to veto items contained in bills appropriating money and preserves the right of the Legislature to override the Governor's veto of any item.

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