

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 80

S.P. 28

In Senate, January 20, 2015

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine To Lower the Age Requirement To Run for Legislative Office**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Heather J.R. Priest'.

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CHENETTE of Saco, RUSSELL of Portland.

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

4 **Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. First, §4, first ¶** is amended to read:

5 **Section 4. Qualifications; residency requirement.** No person shall be a
6 member of the House of Representatives, unless the person shall, at the commencement
7 of the period for which the person is elected, have been 5 years a citizen of the United
8 States, have arrived at the age of ~~24~~ 18 years, have been a resident in this State one year;
9 and for the 3 months next preceding the time of this person's election shall have been,
10 and, during the period for which elected, shall continue to be a resident in the district
11 which that person represents.

12 **Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. Second, §6** is amended to read:

13 **Section 6. Qualifications.** The Senators shall be ~~25~~ 21 years of age at the
14 commencement of the term, for which they are elected, and in all other respects their
15 qualifications shall be the same as those of the Representatives.

16 ; and be it further

17 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date.**

18 **Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their
19 respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for
20 holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November
21 following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment
22 proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

23 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to lower the age
24 requirement for State Senators from 25 to 21 years of age and to lower
25 the age requirement for State Representatives from 21 to 18 years of
26 age?"

27 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question
28 and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding
29 square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and
30 declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of
31 State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall
32 review the returns. If it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the
33 amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment
34 becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it
35 further

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

1

SUMMARY

2

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to provide for lowering the age requirements to serve in the Maine House of Representatives from 21 to 18 years of age

3

and to serve in the Maine Senate from 25 to 21 years of age.

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