

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1818

H.P. 1216

House of Representatives, April 29, 2025

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine to Limit Taxes, Spending or Debt Without Approval by the
Voters**

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FOSTER of Dexter. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and
Representative: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

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. I, §26 is enacted to read:

Section 26. Limit on increases in taxes, spending and debt. The establishment of a new tax and an increase in an existing tax, including, without limitation, those taxes levied on income and property, and an increase in fiscal spending or debt must be approved by the voters of the State or by the voters in the municipality or county affected by the tax, fiscal spending or debt, except that an increase in fiscal spending that does not exceed the rate of inflation is not subject to voter approval, as determined by and in accordance with a process enacted by the Legislature in statute.

Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date.
Resolved: That the municipal officers 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 held in the month 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:

"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to prohibit new or increased taxes, increases in fiscal spending beyond the rate of inflation or increases in debt unless those new or increased taxes or that increase in fiscal spending or debt is approved by the voters affected by those taxes or that fiscal spending or debt as determined by and in accordance with a process enacted by the Legislature in statute?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must 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. If it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the Constitution of Maine 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 purposes of this referendum.

SUMMARY

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to prohibit any new taxes and increases in taxes, including taxes on income and property, increases in fiscal spending beyond the rate of inflation and increases in debt unless those taxes or increases are approved by the voters of the State or by the voters in the municipality or county affected by the tax, fiscal spending or debt, as determined by and in accordance with a process enacted by the Legislature in statute.