

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 64

House of Representatives, Jan. 30, 1919.

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs and 1000 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Mulligan of Nobleboro.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND  
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN

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RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution,  
Granting the Legislature the Right to Enact Necessary  
Legislation for Compulsory Voting at Elections.

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Resolved, Two-thirds of the legislature concurring, that  
2 the following amendment to the constitution of this state  
3 be proposed for the action of the legal voters, to wit:

The legislature shall have authority to provide necessary  
2 legislation for compulsory voting at elections, but the right  
3 of secret voting shall be preserved.

Resolved, That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of  
2 towns, and the assessors of the several plantations in this  
3 state are hereby empowered and directed to notify the in-

4 habitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations  
5 to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and  
6 holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the elec-  
7 tion of senators and representatives, at the next biennial  
8 election following the passage of this resolve for the elec-  
9 tion of governor and other state officials, to give in their  
10 votes upon the amendment proposed in the foregoing reso-  
11 lution, and the question shall be: Shall the legislature have  
12 authority to provide necessary legislation for compulsory  
13 voting at elections, with the right of secret voting to be  
14 preserved?

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations  
2 shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the  
3 amendment expressing it by the word "Yes" upon their  
4 ballots and those opposed to the amendment by the word  
5 "No" upon their ballots, and the ballots shall be received,  
6 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plan-  
7 tation meetings, and returns made to the office of secretary  
8 of state in the same manner as votes for governor and  
9 members of the legislature, and the governor and council  
10 shall count the same, and if it shall appear that a majority  
11 of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of  
12 the amendment, it shall thereupon become a part of the  
13 constitution, and the governor shall forthwith make known  
14 the fact by his proclamation.

Resolved, That the secretary of state shall prepare and  
2 furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots

3 and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing resolves  
4 accompanied by a copy thereof.