

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 694

H. P. 1114

House of Representatives, February 14, 1951.

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Chase of Cape Elizabeth.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-ONE

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RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Providing for  
Additional Signers for Direct Initiative of Legislation.

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**Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two-thirds of each branch of the legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the constitution of this state be proposed:

**Constitution, Art. IV, Part Third, § 18, amended.** Section 18 of Part Third of Article IV of the constitution, which became a part of the constitution by the adoption of Article XXXI, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 18. The electors may propose to the legislature for its consideration any bill, resolve or resolution, including bills to amend or repeal emergency legislation but not an amendment of the state constitution, by written petition addressed to the legislature or to either branch thereof and filed in the office of the secretary of state or presented to either branch of the legislature at least 30 days before the close of its session. Any measure thus proposed by ~~not less than 12,000~~ electors, the number of which shall not be less than 10% of the total vote for governor cast in the last gubernatorial election preceding the filing of such petition, unless enacted with-

out change by the legislature at the session at which it is presented, shall be submitted to the electors together with any amended form, substitute or recommendation of the legislature, and in such manner that the people can choose between the competing measures or reject both. When there are competing bills and neither receives a majority of the votes given for or against both, the one receiving the most votes shall at the next general election to be held not less than 60 days after the first vote thereon be submitted by itself if it receives more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the votes given for and against both. If the measure initiated is enacted by the legislature without change, it shall not go to a referendum vote unless in pursuance of a demand made in accordance with the preceding section. The legislature may order a special election on any measure that is subject to a vote of the people. The governor may, and if so requested in the written petitions addressed to the legislature, shall, by proclamation, order any measure proposed to the legislature ~~by at least 12,000 electors~~ as herein provided, and not enacted by the legislature without change, referred to the people at a special election to be held not less than 4 or more than 6 months after such proclamation, otherwise said measure shall be voted upon at the next general election held not less than 60 days after the recess of the legislature, to which such measure was proposed.'

**Form of question and date when amendment shall be voted upon. Resolved:** That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations of this state are hereby empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of senators and representatives at the next general or special state-wide election, to give in their votes upon the amendment proposed in the foregoing resolution, and the question shall be:

"Shall the constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the legislature providing for additional signers for direct initiative of legislation?"

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the amendment voting "Yes" upon their ballots and those opposed to the amendment voting "No" upon their ballots, and the ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the office of the secretary of state in the same manner as votes for governor and members of the legislature, and the governor and council shall count the same,

and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of the amendment, the governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the amendment shall thereupon, as of the date of said proclamation, become a part of the constitution.

**Secretary of state shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the secretary of state shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing resolve, accompanied by a copy thereof.