

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES,

PASSED BY THE

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

JANUARY SESSION, 1841.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves
of June 28, 1820, and February 26, 1840.

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1841.

RESOLVES
PASSED BY THE
LEGISLATURE OF MAINE.
1841.

[supplied from page 467 of volume]

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

AGGREGATE of the Polls and Estates of the State of Maine, according to the Valuation of 1841.

COUNTIES.	Polls.	Estate.
York,	9,114	7,732,241
Cumberland,	11,966	11,503,040
Lincoln,	11,155	9,811,779
Hancock,	5,306	3,434,512
Washington,	5,331	3,183,683
Kennebec,	9,272	8,638,857
Oxford,	6,679	4,720,561
Somerset,	5,629	4,240,832
Penobscot,	8,277	6,108,315
Waldo,	7,460	5,300,906
Piscataquis,	2,330	1,424,030
Franklin,	3,453	2,655,689
Aroostook,	572	491,843
	86,544	\$69,246,288

0.

Chapter 180.

RESOLVE establishing a Valuation for the State of Maine, April thirteenth, one thousand eight hundred and forty-one.

Resolved, That the number of polls, and amount of estates, annexed to the several towns and plantations in the several Counties, and the aggregate of the several Counties in the foregoing schedule be, and the same are hereby established as the true number of polls, and valuation of estates of taxable polls, and estates of this State, until the further order of the Legislature.

[Approved April 16, 1841.]

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 12, 1841.

The Joint Select Committee, to which were referred sundry petitions, votes of towns and memorials, for amendments to the

Constitution, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to

REPORT :

That the petitioners are numerous and highly respectable, and unite in asking for two amendments to the Constitution ; but are not uniform in a variety of other amendments that are suggested.

They uniformly ask for a reduction in the number of the House of Representatives, and that the Legislature should only sit once in two years. The reasons given for these amendments are, that legislation is now expensive ; that the passage of the revised laws may leave little room for amendment until after a fair trial ; that frequent elections produce excitement and foster a spirit of discontent. They consider that a less number of Representatives would do the public business as well as the present number, and that the session once in two years would be no longer than an annual session.

The committee, after maturely considering the subject, agreed to report Resolves for amending the Constitution so as to establish the number of Representatives at one hundred and thirty, to be apportioned by the next Legislature ; and that the Legislature should meet biennially instead of annually, and to elect the Governor and other State officers to hold their offices for two years instead of one year, to conform to the change in the meeting of the Legislature.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN OTIS, *per order.*

Chapter 181.

RESOLVES providing for amendments to the Constitution in relation to the meeting of the Legislature, the number of representatives, and the term of office of the Governor and other State officers.

Resolved, That the Constitution of this State be amended, in article second, section fourth, article fourth, section fifth, part first ; article fourth, section fifth, part second ; article fourth, section first, part third ; article fifth, section second, part second ; article fifth, section first, part third ; article fifth, section first, part fourth ; article ninth, section fourth, and article tenth, section fourth, by substituting in each of said articles and sections, the word *biennial* for the word “ annual ;” and article fifth, section second, part first, shall be amended by substituting the words *two years*, for “ one

Elections biennial.

Term of office of
Governor, &c.
two years.

year," and *next after the biennial election*, for "in each year," and article fifth, section second, part first, shall be amended by substituting *two years* for "one year," and *biennial* for "annual;" so that each of the officers named in said sections shall be elected for and hold their offices two years instead of one year, and the Legislature meet biennially instead of annually.

No. of Repre-
sentatives 151.

Resolved, That section second, article fourth, part first of the Constitution, shall be amended, by substituting the words one hundred and fifty-one for "not less than one hundred nor more than two hundred," before the word "members" in said section, so as to establish the number of representatives for the State at the number of one hundred and fifty-one; and the latter part of said section, being the words and sentences following: "and whenever the number of representatives shall be two hundred, at the next annual meeting of elections which shall thereafter be had, and at every subsequent period of ten years, the people shall give in their votes, whether the number of representatives shall be increased or diminished, and if a majority of votes are in favor thereof, it shall be the duty of the next Legislature thereafter to increase or diminish the number by the rule hereinafter prescribed," shall not be a part of the Constitution; but one hundred and fifty-one representatives shall be apportioned according to the rule in the Constitution, by the next Legislature.

—to be appor-
tioned by next
Legislature.

Meetings, how
notified.

—to be held
Sept. 13, 1841.

Questions sub-
mitted—

Resolved, That the aldermen of cities, selectmen of the several towns and assessors of the several plantations in this State, are hereby empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations, in the manner prescribed by law, at the annual meeting in September next, to give in their votes upon the amendments proposed in each of the above resolves, and the questions shall be submitted separately, in words following: "Shall the Constitution be amended by adopting the first resolve for the amendment of the Constitution, passed by the

Legislature, proposing to elect the Governor, members of the Legislature and other State officers for the term of two years, and that the Legislature shall meet once in two years?" "Shall the Constitution be amended by adopting the second resolve passed by the Legislature for the amendment of the Constitution, proposing that the number of representatives shall be established at one hundred and fifty-one?" And the ballots shall be given in separately upon each question, those in favor of either of said amendments voting "yes," and those opposed voting "no," upon each amendment; and the ballots shall be received in separate boxes, be sorted, counted and declared, and lists made out of the votes, by the clerks, and returned to the office of the Secretary of State, in the same manner as votes for senators; and the Governor and Council shall count the same, and make return thereof to the next Legislature, and if a majority of votes are in favor of either of said amendments, it shall become a part of the Constitution; and if there is a majority in favor of both, then both amendments shall become a part of the Constitution.

Vote on each, by ballot, "yes," or "no."

Returns to be made to Sec'y of State's office.

Gov. & Council to count votes and make return to Legislature.

Resolved, That the Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish the several cities, towns and plantations, blank returns in conformity to the resolves, accompanied with a copy of the resolves.

Sec'y of State to furnish towns, &c. with blanks.

[Approved April 16, 1841.]

Chapter 182.

RESOLVE in favor of Isaac Hodsdon.

Resolved, That there be paid, out of the treasury of the State, to Isaac Hodsdon the sum of seventy-eight dollars and seventy-eight cents, in full for money expended by him in traveling into the province of New Brunswick, in eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, to obtain information relative to liberating Greeley from jail.

Isaac Hodsdon, \$78 78, expenses to New Brunswick in 1837, for liberation of E. S. Greeley.

[Approved April 16, 1841.]