LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
September 5, 1996 to September 7, 1996

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 4, 1996 to March 27, 1997
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
March 27, 1997 to June 20, 1997

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 26, 1997

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 19, 1997

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J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
1997
Constitutional Resolution of the State of Maine
As Passed at
The First Special Session of the
One Hundred and Eighteenth Legislature
1997

Chapter 1
H.P. 639 - L.D. 864
Resolution, Proposing an
Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine to Clarify Voting Rights

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. II, §1 is amended to read:

Section 1. Qualifications of electors; written
ballot; military service members; students. Every
citizen of the United States of the age of 18 years and
upwards, excepting persons under guardianship for
reasons of mental illness, having his or her residence
established in this State, shall be an elector for
Governor, Senators and Representatives, in the city,
town or plantation where his or her residence has been
established, if he or she continues to reside in this
State; and the elections shall be by written ballot. But
persons in the military, naval or marine service of the
United States, or this State, shall not be considered as
having obtained such established residence by being
stationed in any garrison, barrack or military place, in
any city, town or plantation; nor shall the residence of
a student at any seminary of learning entitle the
student to the right of suffrage in the city, town or
plantation where such seminary is established. No
person, however, shall be deemed to have lost
residence by reason of the person's absence from the
state in the military service of the United States, or of
this State.

Indians. Every Indian, residing on tribal
reservations and otherwise qualified, shall be an
elector in all county, state and national elections.

; and be it further

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, on the Tuesday following the first Monday 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 remove the language providing that all
persons under guardianship for reasons of mental
illness are disqualified from voting?"

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
and, 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 on the date of the
proclamation; and be it further

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 purpose of this referendum.

Effective pending referendum.