

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1845.

AUGUSTA:

WM. T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1845.

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 8.]

[SENATE.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES providing for an amendment of the constitution in relation to the election of representatives to the legislature.

RESOLVED, Two thirds of both branches of the 2 legislature concurring, that the constitution of this 3 State shall be amended in the fifth section of the first 4 part of the fourth article, which provides that a ma- 5 jority of votes shall be necessary to constitute an 6 election of a representative to the legislature, by 7 striking out the words—"at every future meeting 8 until an election shall have been effected"—and in- 9 serting after the words—"and the same proceedings 10 shall be had"—the following words, viz: when the 11 person, who shall have the greatest number of votes, 12 shall be declared elected; and the aldermen of cities, 13 the selectmen of towns not classed, and the selectmen 14 of towns and assessors of plantations classed, shall 15 form a list of persons voted for, with the number of 16 votes for each person against his name, certified in

17 the way and manner heretofore prescribed, and de-
18 liver the same to the person so elected, within ten
19 days after such election. And in case no choice is
20 effected, the same proceedings in relation to the time
21 of holding future meetings as is provided by law shall
22 be had until a plurality of votes shall make an
23 election.

RESOLVED, That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen
2 of the several towns, and assessors of the several
3 plantations in this State are hereby empowered and
4 directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective
5 cities, towns and plantations, in the manner prescribed
6 by law, to give in their votes, at the annual meeting
7 in September next, upon the amendment proposed in
8 the foregoing resolve; and the question shall be,
9 “shall the constitution of this State be amended, as
10 proposed by a resolve of the legislature, providing
11 that a plurality, instead of a majority, of votes, shall
12 constitute an election of representatives to the legis-
13 lature, when no choice has been effected on the second
14 Monday of September?” And the inhabitants of
15 said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot
16 on said question, those who are in favor of the amend-
17 ment, expressing their assent by the word, yes, upon
18 their ballots, and those who are opposed to the amend-
19 ment, expressing their dissent by the word, no, upon
20 their ballots; and the ballots shall be received, sorted,
21 counted and declared in open board, town and plan-
22 tation meetings, and lists of the votes shall be made

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION. 3

23 out by the aldermen, selectmen and assessors, and
24 clerks of the said several cities, towns and plantations,
25 and returned to the office of the secretary of state, in
26 the same manner as votes for senators ; and the gov-
27 ernor and council shall count the same and make
28 return thereof to the next legislature ; and if a major-
29 ity of the votes is in favor of the said amendment,
30 the constitution shall be amended accordingly.

RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall prepare
2 and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations,
3 blank returns conformable to the duties required of
4 their said officers in the foregoing resolves, accom-
5 panied with a copy of the resolves.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, Jan. 31, 1845.

ORDERED, That 350 copies of these resolves be printed for the use of the legislature.

J. O. L. FOSTER, *Secretary.*