

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ELECTIONS - BEFORE

1940

# Proposed Constitutional Amendment

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AUGUSTA, MAINE



1926

SUBMITTED BY THE EIGHTY-  
SECOND LEGISLATURE AND TO  
BE VOTED UPON SEPTEMBER  
13, 1926. : : : : :

## RESOLVES 1925

### CHAPTER 58

#### **Resolve, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Prohibiting the Use of Public Funds for Other than Public Institutions and Public Purposes.**

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

'Sec. 1. On and after January first, nineteen hundred and thirty-one, all moneys raised by taxation in the towns and cities for the support of public schools, and all moneys which may be appropriated by the state for the support of common schools shall be applied to, and expended in, no other schools than those which are conducted according to law, under the order and superintendence of the authorities of the town or city in which the money is expended; and no grant, appropriation or use of public money or property or loan of public credit shall be made or authorized by the state or any political division thereof for the purpose of founding, maintaining or aiding any school or institution of learning, whether under public control or otherwise, wherein any denominational doctrine is inculcated, or any other school, or any college, infirmary, hospital, institution, or educational, charitable or religious undertaking which is not publicly owned and under the exclusive control, order and superintendence of public officers or public agents authorized by the state or federal authority or both, except that appropriations may be made for the maintenance and support of the University of Maine and for free public libraries in any city or town,

and to carry out legal obligations, if any, already entered into; and no such grant, appropriation or use of public money or property or loan of public credit shall be made or authorized for the purpose of founding, maintaining or aiding any church, religious denomination or society.

'Sec. 2. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the state, or any political division thereof, from paying to privately controlled hospitals, infirmaries, or institutions for the deaf, dumb or blind not more than the ordinary and reasonable compensation for care or support actually rendered or furnished by such hospitals, infirmaries or institutions to such persons as may be in whole or in part unable to support or care for themselves.

'Sec. 3. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to deprive any inmate of a publicly controlled reformatory, penal or charitable institution of the opportunity of religious exercises therein of his own faith; but no inmate of such institution shall be compelled to attend religious services or receive religious instruction against his will, or, if a minor, without the consent of his parent or guardian.'

Resolved: That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns, and the 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, to give in their votes at the next regular biennial election in the month of September 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 prohibiting the use of public funds for other than public institutions and public purposes?"

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the amendment

expressing it by the word "Yes" upon their ballots and those opposed to the amendment by the word "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, it shall thereupon become a part of the constitution and the governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation.

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 resolves accompanied by a copy thereof.—  
(Approved April 3, 1925.)