

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ELECTIONS -
BEFORE 1940

**Proposed
Constitutional
Amendments
and
Referendum
Question**

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AUGUSTA, MAINE



1935

Submitted by the Eighty-seventh
Legislature and to be Voted upon
September 9, 1935

RESOLVES 1935

Chapter 81

RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide for Longer Residence to Qualify as a Voter.

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

Article II, section 1 of the constitution; relating to qualification of voters, amended. Section 1 of said Article II as amended in Articles XXIX and XLIV, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 1. Every male citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, excepting paupers, persons under guardianship, and Indians not taxed, having his residence established in this state for the term of ~~three~~ **six** months next preceding any election, shall be an elector for governor, senators and representatives, in the town or plantation where his residence is so established, and he shall continue to be an elector in such town or plantation for the period of three months after his removal therefrom, if he continues to reside in this state during said period; 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 town or plantation; nor shall the residence of a student at any seminary of learning entitle him to the right of suffrage in the town or plantation where such seminary is established. No person, however, shall be deemed to have lost his residence by reason of his absence from the state in the military service of the United States, or of this state.'

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 inhabi-

tants 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, on the 2nd Monday in September following the passage of this resolve, 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 to provide for longer residence of 6 months instead of 3 months to qualify as a voter?"

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 return 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.

Approved March 30, 1935

RESOLVES 1935

Chapter 96

RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide for an Additional Issue of Highway Bonds.

Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two-thirds of the legislature concurring,

that the following amendment to the constitution of this state be proposed:

Additional issue of highway bonds.

Section 17 of Article IX of the constitution, as amended by Article LII of the constitution is hereby further amended by striking out all of said section and inserting in place thereof the following, so that said section, as amended, shall read as follows:

'Sec. 17. Providing for additional issue of highway bonds. The state, under proper enactment of the legislature, may issue its bonds not exceeding in the aggregate \$36,000,000 in amount at any one time, and all bonds issued after the year 1935 shall be payable serially within 15 years from date of issue, at a rate of interest not exceeding 4% per year, payable semi-annually.

The proceeds of bonds hereafter issued and outstanding under authority of this section to the extent of \$5,000,000 shall be devoted solely to the construction of the system of state highways heretofore designated or to such as may hereafter be designated. Said bonds, when paid at maturity or otherwise retired, shall not be reissued. All bonds issued under the authority of this section shall be in addition to the bonds heretofore issued in the amount of \$3,000,000, the proceeds of which were devoted to the building of a combination highway and railroad bridge across the Kennebec river between the city of Bath and the town of Woolwich, and in addition to the bonds heretofore issued in the amount of \$900,000, the proceeds of which were devoted to the building of a highway bridge across the Penobscot river between the towns of Prospect, Verona and Bucksport. Provided further, that in case it becomes necessary in the judgment of the governor and council to match available federal funds for the construction of state highways, the state may issue its bonds up to \$1,000,000 per year, the proceeds thereof to be available for the aforesaid purpose after July 1, 1936.'

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, on the 2nd Monday in September following the passage of this resolve, 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 an increase in the amount of state bonds to be issued for the purpose of matching federal aid money available for the construction of state highways?”

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 return 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.

Approved March 30, 1935

RESOLVES 1935

Chapter 110

RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Authorize the Use of Voting Machines in Elections.

Constitutional amendment proposed authorizing use of voting machines. Resolved: Two-thirds of the legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the constitution of this state be proposed:

Article II of the constitution; amended. Article II of the constitution, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding thereto the following section:

‘**Sec. 5. Voting machines, or other mechanical devices for voting, may be used at all elections under such regulations as may be prescribed by law; provided, however, the right of secret voting shall be preserved.**’

Form of question and date when amendment is to be voted on. Resolved: That the municipal officers of the cities and 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, to meet in manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of senators and representatives, on the 2nd Monday in September following the passage of this resolve, 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 authorizing the use of voting machines in elections?”

And the inhabitants of said cities and 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 the 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 it shall thereupon 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.

Approved April 6, 1935

RESOLVES 1935

Chapter 133

RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide for a Bond Issue, the Proceeds of Which to be Disbursed for the Furnishing and Paying of Additional Funds Necessary Maintenance, Interest and Retirement of Bonds Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District.

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

Article IX, constitution, amended. Article IX of the constitution is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

'Sec. 21. Bond issue to be disbursed for furnishing and paying additional funds necessary maintenance, interest and retirement Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District bonds. The state under authority of proper enactment of the legislature may issue its bonds not to exceed the amount of \$500,000, payable within 30 years, at a rate

of interest not exceeding 5% per annum, payable semi-annually, the proceeds to be disbursed for maintenance of a bridge between the towns of Deer Isle and Sedgwick, and for interest charges on, and retirement of bonds issued by the Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District; said bonds to be issued only at such times and in such amounts as may be required to furnish funds additional to the receipts of the Deer Isle-Sedgwick bridge for maintenance; interest and the retirement of bonds issued by the Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District.'

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, on the 2nd Monday in September following the passage of this resolve, 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 to provide for a bond issue for furnishing and paying any additional funds necessary for maintenance, interest and the retirement of bonds issued by the Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District?" 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, 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.

Approved April 6, 1935

PRIVATE AND SPECIAL LAWS 1935

Chapter 88

AN ACT to Create the Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. Territorial limits, corporate purposes and name. The towns of Stonington, Deer Isle and Sedgwick, all in the county of Hancock, and the people within the territory in the said towns shall constitute a public municipal corporation under the name of the Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District for the purpose of taking advantage of the provisions of section 62 of chapter 28 of the revised statutes and acts amendatory thereto and in addition thereto in the same manner as is therein provided that towns may do, and of applying, through its board of trustees, for the construction of a bridge between Sargentville in the town of Sedgwick and Little Deer Isle in the town of Deer Isle, all in the county of Hancock, across Egge-moggin Reach, so-called, from Bayard Point on to Little Sally Island, thence in a straight line to a point on Little Deer Isle, under the provisions of said acts and of this act, and to build approaches to said bridge, and for the doing of all things necessary and incidental to the main object, including the specific locating of said bridge, the making of all necessary plans for piers which shall be of such nature as will reasonably accommodate highway traffic across said Reach between the points at which said bridge will cross the

Reach. The cost of said highway bridge shall not exceed \$700,000 including the approaches.

Sec. 2. Entitled to some benefits of bridge law. Said Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District is hereby declared to be entitled to the benefits of the provision of the act enumerated in section 1 above for the construction of a bridge and section 62 of chapter 28 of the revised statutes, and all acts additional and amendatory thereto, shall apply to the Bridge District herein created in the same manner as it does to towns so far as the same is not inconsistent herewith, and all rights, powers and privileges granted to and duties imposed upon towns by said act are hereby imposed and granted to the said Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District, excepting such as are inconsistent herewith, and all rights, powers and privileges granted to and imposed upon the municipal officers of towns under said act are hereby granted to and imposed upon the trustees of said Bridge District. In arriving at any decision required of the "board" by said act the state highway commission shall have one vote, the county commissioners of Hancock county shall have one vote and the trustees of the Bridge District shall have one vote.

Sec. 3. Board of trustees; their duties. All of the affairs of said Bridge District shall be managed by a board of trustees composed of 6 members, all of whom shall be chosen at town meetings held within 60 days after this act takes effect, as follows: 2 shall be chosen by the town of Sedgwick, 2 by the town of Deer Isle, and 2 by the town of Stonington. Said trustees shall choose a president and a treasurer and such other officers and agents as they may deem necessary for the proper management of the affairs of the District, and may establish a code of by-laws and all necessary rules and regulations for the proper conduct of the affairs of said district. Whenever a vacancy shall for any reason occur in the board of trustees the same shall be filled at the next annual meeting of said town in whose membership such vacancy exists. A majority of said trustees chosen shall have

full power to act notwithstanding the failure or neglect of any town or towns to choose its members, or notwithstanding any vacancy in said board of trustees, however otherwise caused, and the joint board, consisting of the county commissioners, the state highway commissioners and the trustees shall thoroughly inform themselves as to the present and future requirements of the bridge; shall have authority to appoint and employ engineers; assistants, agents or other employees as they deem necessary and to make and let contract or contracts for the construction of said bridge and the approaches and to do any acts necessary for the construction of said bridge; and after the completion of said bridge and its approaches and during construction, if necessary, the trustees shall employ a draw-tender, toll-keeper, or such other person or persons as may be necessary for the upkeep, maintenance, repair and operation of said bridge. They shall also look after and manage said bridge and look after and have charge of the maintenance, upkeep, repair and operation of said bridge and may arrange for rents from utilities wishing to use the same. No one of the trustees shall receive any compensation for his services but shall be reimbursed for his disbursements and expenses.

Sec. 4. Right of eminent domain conferred; adjustment of damages in case of disagreement. Said Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District shall have the right to take all land or real estate necessary for carrying out the purposes of this act. Said Bridge District may, by a majority of its trustees, enter upon any lands or real estate so taken and held, make surveys and locations and shall file in the registry of deeds for Hancock county a plan and description of all lands so taken, and within 30 days thereafter shall publish notice of such taking and filing, in some newspaper published in said county wherein said land is taken, such publication to be continued for 3 weeks successively. Should said trustees, or a majority of them, be unable to agree with the land owner upon the damages to be paid for the land or real estate so taken the land owner or the said

trustees may, within 6 months after the filing of said plan, petition the county commissioners of said county of Hancock, who shall cause such damages to be assessed in the same manner and under the same conditions, limitations, restrictions and rights of appeal as are by law prescribed in cases of damages for the laying out of highways so far as said law is consistent with the provisions of this act.

Sec. 5. Payment of damages from the proceeds of the bonds issued by the District for the purpose of this act as herein-after provided. The trustees are hereby authorized to acquire the physical properties of the ferry now operating between Deer Isle and Sargentville at a valuation to be fixed by the county commissioners for Hancock county after notice and hearing, provided, however, that nothing herein shall authorize the payment of any sum for the franchise of said ferry company and no allowance for loss or interference with the franchise of said ferry shall be considered in fixing the valuation of the property acquired under this act.

Sec. 6. Lease of rights to public utilities. The trustees may lease for a period not exceeding 30 years rights to telephone, telegraph and water companies and to other utilities to use such bridge.

Sec. 7. Bond issue authorized. For accomplishing the purposes of this act said Bridge District, through its trustees, is authorized to procure funds for the purpose of this act and such other expenses as may be necessary to carry out the said purposes, and the said District, through its trustees, is hereby authorized to borrow money and to issue the interest bearing, negotiable bonds and notes of said District but shall not incur a total indebtedness exceeding the sum of \$700,000 and shall only incur said capital indebtedness in the event the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works allows a loan of the cost of the labor and material in said bridge and its approaches and further that of such loan, at least 30% shall be a Federal Grant, or that there shall be such reduction of the present rate of interest

of such loans as will equal or be equivalent to at least a 30% Federal Grant. Said negotiable notes and / or bonds shall be the legal and general obligation of the said Bridge District. Said notes or bonds and each of them shall have inscribed upon its face, "Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District," and shall bear interest at the rate of 4% per year, payable semi-annually, and may mature serially or may run for such period as said trustees may determine, but none of them shall be for a period longer than 30 years. All of the notes or bonds issued by said district shall be signed by the treasurer and countersigned by the president of the District, and if coupon bonds be issued each coupon shall be attested by a facsimile signature of the treasurer printed thereon. The expense of said bonds shall be paid by the District.

Sec. 8. Toll bridge; rate; care; and use of funds. Said bridge, when constructed, shall be operated as a toll bridge until all the bonds issued as herein provided for, shall be retired.

Sec. 9. Provisions for sinking fund, and how money shall be apportioned, raised and retired. The trustees shall establish a sinking fund for the purpose of redeeming said bonds when they come due and not less than 4% of the total amount of the bond issue and the expenses incidental to the carrying out of this act shall be added to the sinking fund each year beginning not later than the 6th year after said bonds are so issued, so that said bonds shall be retired in no less than 25 annual instalments within 30 years from the day of the date of their issue.

Said sinking fund may be deposited in any bank within the state of Maine or may be invested in the bonds of the United States, of the state of Maine, or any political subdivision of the state of Maine, as the trustees may determine, and the trustees are empowered to purchase any of the Bridge District bonds upon favorable terms if and when sufficient funds have accumulated in said sinking fund to redeem maturing bonds and purchase others and may cancel any bonds so redeemed or purchased and no bonds so redeemed or cancelled shall be reissued.

And the trustees shall determine the amount of money which shall be required each year to meet the interest on said notes and bonds as well as the principal thereof and the total sum necessary for interest, principal, maintenance, repairs and renewals shall be paid out of the tolls charged and collected for the use and crossing of said bridge by vehicles and other traffic and out of the leases to public utilities for the use of such bridge and the trustees are hereby authorized and directed to establish and promulgate the tolls to be charged and collected for the use in crossing said bridge by vehicles and other traffic, and to establish the charge for leases for the use of said bridge, by utility companies and by all other traffic, having regard, in establishing said charges, to the value of the service rendered, the requirements for upkeep, maintenance, repairs and operation of said bridge, and for the payment of interest and the retirement of bonds as is herein provided for and said trustees may from time to time establish and promulgate new tolls and may provide for trip or commutation tickets at less than regular tolls for a definite number of passages within a specific time, and the trustees shall regularly deposit all such sums so collected, and shall, on the 1st secular day in each month give to the treasurer of state the monthly balance on deposit with an estimate of the charges for the upkeep, maintenance, repairs and operations of said bridge and shall, in each 6 month period, certify to the treasurer of the state of Maine such sum as they may have on hand beyond the charges necessary for maintenance, upkeep, repairs, and operation, to apply the same to the interest on the debt, and the payment of principal and the retirement of bonds, and any additional funds necessary for maintenance, interest and the retirement of bonds shall be furnished and paid by the state of Maine.

Sec. 10. Provisions for termination of the board of trustees and the Bridge District. At such time as the bridge and its approaches shall be completed and all of the obligations of the district as to principal and interest charges shall be paid and retired,

such bridge shall cease to be operated as a toll bridge and shall, thereupon, be a free bridge, the property of the state of Maine, to be maintained by the state, and the trustees shall be discharged and the Bridge District terminated.

Sec. 11. Referendum provided for.

This act shall be submitted for approval or rejection to the duly qualified voters of the state of Maine at an election to be held on the 2nd Monday in September in the year A. D. 1935. 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 to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of senators and representatives to give their votes upon this act and the question shall be: "Shall the act creating the Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District be accepted?" And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the same expressing it by making a cross within the square opposite the word "Yes" upon their ballots and those opposed to the question by making a cross within the square opposite 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 act, the governor shall make known the fact by his proclamation, and thereupon this act shall become law. The secretary of state shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing, accompanied by a copy thereof.

Approved April 6, 1935