

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE - HUNDRE DTH L E G I S L A T U R E

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Legislative Document

No. 984

H. P. 706

House of Representatives, January 26, 1961

Referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Cox of Dexter.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-ONE

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**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Establish Life Tenure for Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Superior Court.**

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**Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two-thirds of each branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of this State be proposed:

**Constitution, Article VI, Section 4, repealed and replaced.** Section 4 of Article VI of the Constitution is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

**'Section 4. Tenure of judicial officers. Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Superior Court shall hold their offices during good behavior.'**

**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 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 at the next general or special state-wide election 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 establish life tenure for Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Superior Court?"

The inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, and shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed against the words "Yes" or "No" their opinion of the same. 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, 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, town and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing resolve, accompanied by a copy thereof.