

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 638

H. P. 433

House of Representatives, January 24, 1963

Referred to Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Legislative Re-apportionment. Sent up for concurrence and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Cottrell of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-THREE

RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Permitting the People to Determine the Question of Whether a Constitutional Convention Shall Be Called.

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, Art. IV, Part Third, Section 15, amended. Section 15 of Part Third of Article IV of the Constitution is amended by adding at the end, a new paragraph, as follows:

'The Legislature may submit the question of whether a constitutional convention shall be called to the people at any time, and if a majority of the votes cast thereon are found to be in favor thereof, shall issue a call for a convention at the next succeeding regular session. At the end of any fifteen-year period, in which neither a convention has been called, nor the question submitted to the people, the Secretary of State shall submit the question to the people to be voted on at the next general election. If a majority of the votes given thereon are in favor of the question, the Legislature, at the next succeeding regular session, shall issue a call for a convention.'

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 election in the month of November or special state-wide election on the Tuesday following the

first Monday of November 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 Permitting the People to Determine the Question of Whether a Constitutional Convention Shall Be Called?”

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, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing resolve, accompanied by a copy thereof.