

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1457

S. P. 536

In Senate, March 13, 1963

Referred to Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Legislative Re-apportionment. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Brooks of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-THREE

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide Revised
Qualifications for Electors.**

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Constitution, Article II, Section 1, repealed and replaced. Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'ARTICLE II.

Electors.

Section 1. Qualifications, electors. Every citizen of the United States of the age of twenty years and upwards (except incompetents under guardianship), having his or her residence established in this state for the term of six months next preceding any election, shall be an elector for Governor, Senators and Representatives, in the city, town or plantation where his or her residence has been established for the term of three months next preceding such election, and he or she shall continue to be an elector in such city, town or plantation for the period of three months after he or she shall cease to reside therein, if he or she continues to reside in this State during such period. Being stationed at any establishment maintained in the State of Maine by any one of the military services of the United States shall not in and of itself give sufficient residence to entitle one so stationed to right of suffrage in the city, town or plantation in which such establishment in the State is maintained. The residence of a student at any institution of learning shall not in and of itself entitle such student to the right of suffrage in the city, town or plantation where such institution is established. No person,

however, shall be deemed to have lost his or her residence by reason of absence from the state in the military service of the United States, or of this state, or by temporary absence from this state with no intention of ceasing to reside in the state.

No person shall have the right to vote or be eligible to office under the Constitution of this State, who shall not be able to read the Constitution in the English language, and write his name; provided, however, that this shall not apply to any person prevented by a physical disability from complying with such requirements.

Every Indian, residing on tribal reservations and otherwise qualified, shall be an elector in all county, state and national elections.'

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 to Provide Revised Qualifications for Electors?"

And 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.