

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 719**

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H. P. 548

House of Representatives, January 27, 1965

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

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Bussiere of Lewiston.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-FIVE

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**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Changing the Tenure of Office of the Governor to Two-Year Terms.**

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

**Constitution, Article II, Section 4, amended.** The first sentence of section 4 of Article II of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

'The election of **Governor**, Senators and Representatives shall be on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November biennially forever ~~and the election of Governor shall be on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November every four year.~~

**Constitution, Article V, Part First, Section 2, amended.** Section 2 of Part First of Article V of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

'**Section 2. Term of office.** The Governor shall be elected by the qualified electors, and shall hold his office for ~~four~~ **two** years from the first Wednesday of January next following the election. ~~The person who has served two consecutive popular elective four year terms of office as Governor shall be ineligible to succeed himself.~~

**Constitution, Article V, Part First, Section 14, repealed and replaced.** Section 14 of Part First of Article V of the Constitution is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'**Section 14. Vacancy, how supplied.** Whenever the office of Governor shall become vacant by death, resignation, removal from office or otherwise, the Presi-

dent of the Senate shall assume the office of Governor until another Governor shall be duly qualified; and in case of the death, resignation, removal from office or other disqualification of the President of the Senate, so exercising the office of Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall exercise the office, until a President of the Senate shall have been chosen; and when the office of Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House shall become vacant, in the recess of the Senate, the person, acting as Secretary of State for the time being, shall by proclamation convene the Senate, that a President may be chosen to exercise the office of Governor. And whenever either the President of the Senate, or Speaker of the House shall so exercise said office, he shall receive only the compensation of Governor, but his duties as President or Speaker shall be suspended; and the Senate or House, shall fill the vacancy, until his duties as Governor shall cease.'

**Effective date. Resolved:** That the amendments herein proposed, if adopted, shall determine the term of office of Governor to be elected at the general election in November, 1966, as well as the terms of Governors thereafter to be elected.

**Form of question and date when amendments 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 a special election to be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, 1965, to give in their votes upon the amendments proposed in the foregoing resolution, and the question shall be:

“Shall the Constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the Legislature Changing the Tenure of Office of the Governor to Two-Year Terms?”

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 amendments, the Governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the amendments 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.