

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 724

H. P. 553

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. Martin of Eagle Lake.

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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 Providing for the Election of the Secretary of State and His Succession to the Office of Governor.**

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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**Constitution, Article V, Part First, Section 14, repealed and replaced.** Section 14 of Part First of Article V of the Constitution is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof: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 Governor-elect dies, resigns or is disqualified or the office of Governor shall become vacant by death, resignation, removal from office or otherwise, the Secretary of State elected with the Governor shall exercise the office of Governor for the remainder of the term. In the event of the death, resignation, removal from office or other disqualification of the Secretary of State, so exercising the office of Governor, the President of the Senate shall succeed to the office for the remainder of the term. When the office of Governor, Secretary of State and President of the Senate shall become vacant, the Speaker of the House shall exercise the office for the remainder of the term; and whenever the Secretary of State, 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 Secretary of State, President of the Senate or Speaker of the House shall cease; and the Senate or House shall fill their vacancies resulting thereby.’

**Constitution, Article V, Part Third, Section 1, repealed and replaced.** Section 1 of Part Third of Article V of the Constitution is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

**Section 1. Election.** The Secretary of State shall have the same qualifications as the Governor and shall serve for the same term. He shall be elected by the qualified electors, jointly with, and in the same manner as, the Governor, and shall be considered as receiving the same number of votes. No election of a Secretary of State shall be held except at the time of electing a Governor.'

**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 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 Providing for the Election of the Secretary of State and His Succession to the Office of Governor?"

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.