

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1423

S. P. 475

In Senate, March 26, 1965

Received by unanimous consent. Referred to Committee on State Government.
Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Secretary

Presented by Senator Mendell of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Changing the Tenure
of Office of Senators and Representatives to Four-Year Terms.**

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

Constitution, Article IV, Part First, Section 2, amended. The first sentence of Section 2 of Part First of Article IV of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

~~'The House of Representatives shall consist of one hundred and fifty-one members, to be elected by the qualified electors, and hold their office two four years from the day next preceding the biennial meeting of the Legislature first Tuesday of January next following the election.'~~

Constitution, Article IV, Part First, Section 5, amended. The last 2 sentences of Section 5 of Part First of Article IV of the Constitution are amended to read as follows:

~~'The Governor and Council shall examine the returned copies of such lists and twenty days before the first Wednesday of January biennially every four years,~~

shall issue a summons to such persons as shall appear to have been elected by a plurality of all votes returned, to attend and take their seats. All such lists shall be laid before the House of Representatives on the first Wednesday of January ~~biennially~~ **every four years**, and they shall finally determine who are 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 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 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 Senators and Representatives to four-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.

Effective date. Resolved: That the amendments herein proposed, if adopted, shall determine the term of office of Senators and Representatives to be elected at the general election in November, 1968, as well as the terms of Senators and Representatives thereafter to be elected.