

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 47

H. P. 46

House of Representatives, January 7, 1969

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Starbird of Kingman Township.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-NINE

RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Changing the Tenure of Office of Senators 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 The first sentence of Section 4 of Article II of the Constitution is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The election of Representatives and of one-half the total number of Senators shall be on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November biennially, and the election of Governor shall be on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November every four years.

Constitution, Article IV, Part Second, Section 1, repealed and replaced. Section 1 of Part Second of Article IV of the Constitution, as repealed and replaced by Article CIII, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

Section 1. Number and term of Senators. The Senate shall consist of not less than thirty nor more than forty Senators. One Senator shall be elected by the qualified electors of each of the Senatorial Districts into which the State shall be from time to time divided. One-half of the total number of Senators shall be elected at each biennial state election. Beginning in 1972 and every four years thereafter Senators elected from the even-numbered districts shall serve for four years, and Senators elected from odd-numbered districts shall serve for two years. In 1974 and every four years thereafter Senators elected from odd-numbered districts shall serve for four years.

Effective date. Resolved: That the amendments herein proposed, if adopted, shall determine the term of office of Senators to be elected at the general election in November, 1972.

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 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 review 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.