

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 68**

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H. P. 36

Office of the Clerk of the House

Filed December 22, 1970 under Joint Rule 6 by Mr. Bustin of Augusta.  
To be printed and delivered to the House of Representatives of the 105th  
Legislature.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Bustin of Augusta.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Reduce  
the Voting Age to Eighteen Years.**

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**Constitutional amendment. RESOLVED:** Two-thirds of each branch of  
the Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitu-  
tion of this State be proposed:

**Constitution, Article II, Section 1, amended.** The first sentence of section  
1 of Article II of the Constitution, as amended, is further amended to read  
as follows:

Every citizen of the United States of the age of ~~twenty~~ **eighteen** years and  
upwards, excepting persons under guardianship for reasons of mental illness,  
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, Sen-  
ators 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 his or her removal there-  
from, if he or she continues to reside in this State during such period, unless  
barred by the provisions of the second paragraph of this section; and the  
elections shall be by written ballot.

**Form of question and date when amendment shall be voted upon. Re-  
solved:** That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assess-  
ors 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 meet-

ings of said inhabitants for the election of Senators and Representatives at a 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 reduce the voting age to eighteen years?”

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 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.

**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.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

Persons 18 years of age may vote for federal officers. The purpose of this resolution is to have the same age limit for local and state elections.