

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 94

S. P. 53

In Senate, January 7, 1971

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Harding of Aroostook.

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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 Reducing the  
Size of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

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

**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 years from the day next preceding the biennial meeting of the Legislature.

**Constitution, Article IV, Part Second, Section 1, amended.** Section 1 of Part Second of Article IV of the Constitution, as last repealed and replaced by Article CX, is amended to read as follows:

**Section 1. Number of Senators.** The Senate shall consist of ~~an odd number of Senators, not less than thirty-one nor more than thirty-five~~ **seventeen members**, elected at the same time and for the same term as Representatives by the qualified electors of the districts into which the State shall be from time to time divided.

**Effective date. Resolved:** That the amendments proposed in this resolve, if adopted, shall determine the number of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to be elected at the general election in November, 1974 as well as the members 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 the next general election in the month of November 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 to reduce the size of the House of Representatives from 151 to 51 and the size of the Senate from 34 to 17?”

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.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This resolve proposes a constitutional amendment to reduce the size of the House of Representatives to 51 and the Senate to 17.