

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 570

H. P. 436

House of Representatives, February 3, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Lucas of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Providing for
the Appointment of the Secretary of State by the Governor.**

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Constitution, Article V, Part Third, Section 1, repealed and replaced. Section 1 of Part Third of Article V of the Constitution is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof: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. Appointment. The Secretary of State shall be appointed by the Governor to serve at the pleasure of the Governor during his term of office and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

Form of question and date when amendment 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 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 appointment of the Secretary of State by the 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 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, as of the first Wednesday in January, 1973, 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 return in conformity with the foregoing resolve, accompanied by a copy thereof.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this resolution is to have the Secretary of State appointed by the Governor rather than by the Legislature.