

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
105TH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE AMENDMENT " A " to H. P. 1301, L. D. 1706, Bill,
"AN ACT Providing for a Declaration of Policy Concerning the
State's Environment."

Amend said Bill by striking out all of the Title and
inserting in place thereof: 'RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment
to the Constitution to Provide for Enjoying Environmental
Resources.'

Further amend said Bill by striking out everything, in-
cluding the enacting clause, and inserting in place thereof the
following:

'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 I, Section 1, amended. Section 1 of
Article I of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. All men are born equally free and independent,
and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, among
which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty,
enjoying environmental resources, acquiring, possessing and
protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and
happiness.

(Filing No. H-288)

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 or special state-wide election on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following the passage of this resolution 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 provide for enjoying environmental resources?"

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

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cities, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing resolution, accompanied by a copy thereof.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to make clear that, among the rights which may not be infringed by governmental action in Maine, is the right of Maine people to enjoy our state's environment, including air, water, public land, and a reasonable degree of quiet.

Filed by Mr. Martin of Eagle Lake.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

5/18/71

(Filing No. H-288)