

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1706

H. P. 1285 House of Representatives, March 28, 1973
Referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and
ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Najarian of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Reducing
the Size of the House of Representatives and Establishing
Single Member Districts.

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Constitution, Article IV, Part First, Section 2, repealed and replaced.
Section 2 of Part First of Article IV of the Constitution is repealed and the
following enacted in place thereof:

Section 2. Division. The House of Representatives shall consist of not
less than ninety-three nor more than one hundred and five members, to be
elected by the qualified electors of the districts into which the State shall
from time to time be divided and hold their offices for two years from the
day next preceding the biennial meeting of the Legislature. The Legislature,
which shall convene after the adoption of this amendment, shall cause the
State to be divided into districts for the choice of Representatives from each
district. There shall be three Representatives from each Senatorial District
and each single member Representative District shall have equal population
as nearly as practicable based upon the most recent Federal Census. Each
district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory, crossing politi-
cal subdivision lines the least number of times within the Senatorial District
reasonably necessary to establish equally populated districts. Whenever a
municipality has population less than the unit base number, it shall be
united with an adjoining municipality or municipalities or portions thereof
to produce a district electing one Representative within the confines of the
Senatorial District. Whenever a municipality has population entitling it to

one or more Representatives, such areas of population in excess of the unit base number shall be united with an adjoining municipality or municipalities or portions thereof within the confines of one Senatorial District to produce a district electing one Representative. Whenever a municipality has population entitling it to two or more Representatives, it shall be divided into Single-member Districts. The Legislature shall in 1981, and following each Federal Decennial Census thereafter, do likewise.

In the event that the Legislature shall fail to make an apportionment, the Supreme Judicial Court shall, within sixty days following the end of the period in which the Legislature is required to act, but fails to do so, make an apportionment.

Effective date. The amendment herein proposed, if adopted, shall determine the election of members of the House of Representatives to be elected at the general election in November, 1982 as well as membership of the House of Representatives thereafter to be elected.

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 reduce the size of the House of Representatives from 151 to not less than 93 nor more than 105 members and establish single member districts?”

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 resolution, accompanied by a copy thereof.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this Resolution is to reduce the size of the House of Representatives from 151 to not less than 93 nor more than 105 members and establish single member districts, effective 1982.