

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1716

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S. P. 544

In Senate, April 3, 1973

Taken from table by President and on Motion by Senator Morrell of Cumberland referred to Committee on Taxation. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Morrell of Cumberland.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Broadening the Limitation for Revenues Derived from Taxation of Vehicles Used on Public Highways and Fuels Used by Such Vehicles.**

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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 IX, Section 19, amended.** Section 19 of Article IX of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

**Section 19.** All revenues derived from fees, excises and license taxes relating to registration, operation and use of vehicles on public highways, and to fuels used for the propulsion of such vehicles shall be expended solely for cost of administration, statutory refunds and adjustments, payment of debts and liabilities incurred in construction and reconstruction of highways and bridges, the cost of construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of public highways and bridges under the direction and supervision of a state department having jurisdiction over such highways and bridges and expense for state enforcement of traffic laws and for any other purposes which the Department of Transportation has a duty to perform and shall not be diverted for any purpose, provided that these limitations shall not apply to revenue from an excise tax on motor vehicles imposed in lieu of personal property tax.

**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 Broadening the Limitation for Revenues Derived from Taxation of Vehicles Used on Public Highways and Fuels Used by Such Vehicles?”

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 bill is to permit moneys dedicated to highways, etc., to be spent also for any other purposes which the Department of Transportation has a duty to perform.