

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 2464**

H. P. 1929

House of Representatives, January 29, 1974

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Simpson of Standish.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FOUR

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**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Establish  
a Legislative Compensation Commission.**

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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**Constitution, Article IV, Part Third, Section 7, repealed and replaced.** Section 7 of Part Third of Article IV of the Constitution is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

**Section 7. Legislative Compensation Commission.** There is established a Legislative Compensation Commission which shall be composed of nine members of the public, three of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, two of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, two of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the Floor Leader of the political party holding the second largest number of seats in the Senate, and one of whom shall be appointed by the Floor Leader of the political party holding the second largest number of seats in the House of Representatives. The terms of the members shall be determined by legislative enactment.

The Commission shall recommend compensation for Members of the Legislature to a session of each odd-numbered Legislature, which may reduce or reject, but which shall not increase the recommended compensation. The Members of the two Legislatures immediately succeeding a Legislature to which the Commission presents recommendations shall receive the compensation recommended by the Commission or, if the Legislature shall have re-

jected the recommendation, the compensation received by Members of the preceding Legislature or, if the Legislature shall have reduced the recommended compensation, the compensation as reduced. The expenses of the Members of the Legislature in travelling to the Legislature, and returning therefrom, once in each week of each session and no more, shall be paid by the State out of the public treasury to every member, who shall seasonably attend, in the judgment of the Legislature, and does not depart therefrom without leave.

**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 establish a Legislative Compensation Commission which shall, subject only to reduction or rejection by the Legislature, set Legislators’ compensation?”

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

This resolution would establish, in accordance with the recommendations of the Legislative Compensation Commission, a permanent citizen’s commission to set legislative salaries and expense allowances, subject to rejection or reduction by the Legislature.