

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Title)
New Draft of H. P. 1840, L. D. 2332
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2561

H. P. 2018 House of Representatives, March 6, 1974
Reported by 5 Members from Committee on State Government and printed
under Joint Rules No. 18.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to
Provide that Equal Protection of the Laws shall not be Denied or
Abridged on Account of Sex.**

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 6-A, amended. Section 6-A of Article I of the Constitution is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read as follows:

Equal protection of the laws shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex.

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 that equal protection of the laws shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex?”

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, on January 1, 1976, 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 amendment to the Maine Constitution is to provide that the equal protection of the laws of Maine shall not be denied to any person or abridged in regard to any person because of that person's sex. The Resolution has been redrafted to insure equality of rights under the law for women and men within the State of Maine while avoiding undesirable interpretations possible under, though not intended by the drafters of, the original Resolution.