

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 95**

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S. P. 43

In Senate, January 7, 1975

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Hichens of York.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Prohibiting Anyone under Sentence for a Felony from Seeking or Holding a Constitutional Office.**

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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, Art. IX, § 20 is enacted to read:**

**Section 20. Persons under felony sentence prohibited from seeking or holding constitutional office. No person under sentence for conviction of a felony shall be eligible to seek or hold office under the Constitution of this State.**

**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 no person under sentence for a felony shall seek or hold a constitutional office?”

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 will prevent anyone who is serving a sentence for a felony conviction from campaigning for any constitutional office or holding any constitutional office.