

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 619

H. P. 455 House of Representatives, February 12, 1975
Speaker laid before the House and on motion of Mrs. Boudreau of Portland, referred to the Committee on Election Laws. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Require that the Governor be Elected by Majority Vote.

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. V, Pt. 1, § 3 is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

Section 3. Election; votes to be returned to Secretary of State. The meetings for election of Governor shall be notified, held and regulated and the votes received, sorted, counted and declared and recorded in the manner provided by statute. No person shall be elected Governor who has not received a majority of the votes cast for Governor in the regular gubernatorial election or, if necessary, in a special run-off gubernatorial election or elections. No statutory procedure for the election of the Governor shall be repealed, rescinded or amended from the time of each regular gubernatorial election until a candidate for Governor has been declared elected under the appropriate statutes.

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 require the Governor to be elected by majority vote?”

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 amend the Constitution to require that the Governor be elected by majority vote and that the Legislature provide by statute for gubernatorial run-off elections when no candidate for Governor receives a majority vote in the general election.