

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1040

H. P. 851

House of Representatives, March 12, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Conners of Franklin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Send to the People in a Special Advisory Election the Question of whether or not the Maine Legislature Shall Repeal its Ratification of the so-called "Equal Rights Amendment."

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. Special advisory referendum on ratification by the Maine Legislature of Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Secretary of State shall, 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 Act, hold a special advisory referendum to determine the sentiment of the people on whether or not the Maine Legislature shall repeal its ratification of the proposed 27th amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the so-called "Equal Rights Amendment."

Sec. 2. Form of question and date when advisory question shall be voted upon. 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 Act to give in their votes upon the advisory question proposed in this section, and the question shall be:

"Shall the Maine Legislature meet in special session to reconsider its ratification of the proposed 27th amendment to the United States Constitution, the so-called Equal Rights Amendment?"

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. The Governor shall forthwith make known the outcome of the referendum by proclamation.

The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with this Act, accompanied by a copy thereof.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill gives the people of Maine an opportunity to vote on whether they are in favor of or opposed to the Equal Rights Amendment. Recent rejection of ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by Virginia and Oklahoma and the rescinding of that amendment by Nebraska and Tennessee would indicate that the people of Maine should be given an opportunity to speak.