

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1350

H. P. 1070

House of Representatives, March 24, 1975

On Motion of Mr. Cooney of Sabattus, referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Stubbs of Hallowell.

Cosponsor: Mrs. Hutchings of Lincolnville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Providing for Four-Year Terms for Legislators.

Constitutional amendments. RESOLVED: Two-thirds of each branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendments to the Constitution of this State be proposed:

Constitution, Art. II, § 4, first sentence, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

Senators and Representatives representing odd-numbered districts shall be elected on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November every four years beginning with the election of 1976; Senators and Representatives representing even-numbered districts shall be elected on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November for two years by the election of 1976, and shall be elected on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November for a term of four years, beginning with the election of 1978.

Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 1, § 2, first sentence, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The House of Representatives shall consist of one hundred and fifty-one members, to be elected by the qualified electors. Members representing odd-numbered districts shall hold their office four years from the day next preceding the biennial meeting of the Legislature, beginning with the biennial meeting of the 108th Legislature. Members representing even-numbered districts shall hold their office two years from the day next preceding the biennial meeting of the 108th Legislature, and shall hold their office four years from

the day next preceding the biennial meeting of the Legislature, beginning with the biennial meeting of the 109th Legislature.

Constitution, Art. 4, Pt. 2, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

Section. 1. Number of Senators. The Senate shall consist of an odd number of Senators, not less than thirty-one nor more than thirty-five. Senators representing odd-numbered districts shall hold their office four years from the day next preceding the biennial meeting of the Legislature, beginning with the biennial meeting of the 108th Legislature. Senators representing even-numbered districts shall hold their office two years from the day next preceding the biennial meeting of the 108th Legislature, and shall hold their office four years from the day next preceding the biennial meeting of the Legislature, beginning with the biennial meeting of the 109th Legislature.

Form of question and date when amendments 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 amendments 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 staggered four-year terms for Senators and Representatives?”

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 amendments, the Governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the amendments 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 amendment to the Constitution will establish staggered 4-year terms for Senators and Representatives.