

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1666

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H. P. 1365

House of Representatives, April 3, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dam of Skowhegan.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Allow Municipalities to Provide Limited Property Tax Incentives to Encourage New Business.**

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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, § 8 is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

Notwithstanding anything else contained in this section, if a majority of the eligible voters of a municipality so elect, an equitable program of offering real and personal property tax incentives may be established by any municipality for the purpose of attracting business enterprises not previously located in the said municipality; provided, however, that no enterprise may benefit from such program for more than five years.

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 allow municipalities to provide limited property tax incentives to encourage new business?”

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

The purpose of this resolution is to amend the Constitution to allow municipalities to provide limited property tax incentives to encourage new businesses to locate in the municipality.