

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2075

H. P. 1895

House of Representatives, January 23, 1976

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Martin of Eagle Lake.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide that the House of Representatives shall, Beginning on the Day Next Preceding the First Wednesday after the First Tuesday in January of 1985, Consist of One Hundred and Thirty-two Members Instead of One Hundred and Fifty-one.

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. IV, Pt. I, § 2, first sentence as amended by Constitutional Resolution 1975, c. 5, is repealed and the following is enacted in place thereof:

The House of Representatives shall consist of one hundred and thirty-two members, to be elected by the qualified electors, and hold their office two years from the day next preceding the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in January following the general election.

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 providing that the House of Representatives shall, beginning on the day next preceding the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in January of 1985, consist of one hundred and thirty-two members instead of one hundred and fifty-one?”

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 on the day next preceding the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in January of 1985.

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 bill proposes a constitutional resolution to reduce the size of the House of Representatives to 132 members beginning in 1985 after the next general legislative reapportionment.