

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-942)  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
107TH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1981, L.D. 2170, RESOLUTION,  
Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Permit the Governor  
to Veto Items Contained in Bills Appropriating Money.

Amend said Resolution in the title by inserting at the end  
before the punctuation the following: 'and to permit the  
Legislature to override all or part of such a veto by a two-thirds  
vote of each House'

Further amend said Resolution by striking out all of the  
3rd paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following:

'If any bill presented to the Governor contains one or more  
items of appropriation of moneys, he may object to or reduce one  
or more of such items while approving other portions of the bill.  
In such case, he shall append to the bill at the time of signing  
it a statement of the item or items which he declines to approve  
or which he has reduced, together with his reasons therefor, and  
shall send a copy of such statement to both the House of  
Representatives and the Senate. The House in which the bill shall  
have originated shall enter the statement on its journals and  
proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, two-  
thirds of that House shall agree to pass it, it shall be sent to  
the other House by which it shall be reconsidered and, if  
approved by two-thirds of that House, it shall have the same  
effect as if it had been signed by the Governor, but in all such

cases the votes of both Houses shall be taken by yeas and nays and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill or resolution shall be entered on the journals of both Houses respectively. In such reconsideration, the Legislature may pass over the Governor's objection, as provided in this paragraph, any one or more of the items which the Governor has declined to approve or has reduced. If the bill or resolution shall not be returned by the Governor within five days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, it shall have the same force and effect as if he had signed it, unless the Legislature by their adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall have such force and effect, unless returned within three days after the next meeting of the same Legislature which enacted the bill or resolution. If there is no such next meeting of the Legislature which enacted the bill or resolution, the bill or resolution shall not be a law.'

Further amend said Resolution by striking out all of the question and inserting in place thereof the following:

"Shall the Constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the Legislature to permit the Governor to veto items contained in bills appropriating money and to permit the Legislature to override all or part of such a veto by a two-thirds vote of each House?"

Further amend said Resolution by striking out in the next to the last paragraph in the last line (same in L.D.) the figure "1985" and inserting in place thereof the figure '1977'

Statement of Fact

The purposes of this amendment are to:

1. Revise the operative date from 1985 to 1977.
2. Provide to the Legislature the same choice in an override vote as is given to the Governor in a veto: That is, to approve or disapprove of one or a combination of items. The override vote may be accomplished by two-thirds vote of each House of the Legislature.

Reported by the Minority of the Committee on State Government.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

3/1/76

(Filing No. H-942)