

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 105

H. P. 85

House of Representatives, January 18, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Marshall of Millinocket.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Reducing the Size of the House of Representatives to 132 Members and Establishing the Size of the Senate at 33 Members.

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. 1, § 2, 1st sentence, as amended by CR 1975, c. 5, is further amended to read:

The House of Representatives shall consist of ~~one hundred and fifty one~~ **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.

Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 1, § 2, 4th sentence, as repealed and replaced by CR 1975, c. 1, is amended to read:

The number of Representatives **established for the following legislative bien-nium** shall be divided into the number of inhabitants of the State exclusive of foreigners not naturalized according to the latest Federal Decennial Census or a State Census previously ordered by the Legislature to coincide with the Federal Decennial Census, to determine a median population figure for each Representative District.

Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 2, § 1 is amended to read:

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~~ **thirty-three** Senators, elected at the same time and for the same term as Representatives by the qualified electors of the districts into which the State shall be from time to time divided.

Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 2, § 2, 2nd sentence, as repealed and replaced by CR 1975, c. 1, is amended to read:

The Legislature which shall convene in 1983 and every tenth year thereafter shall cause the State to be divided into districts for the choice of a Senator from each district ~~using the same method as provided in Article IV, Part First, Section 2 for apportionment of Representative Districts.~~ Each Senatorial District shall be comprised of three contiguous districts established under Article IV, Part First, Section 2 and the population of each Senate District shall, as nearly as practicable, be equal to that of every other Senatorial District.

Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date. Resolved: That the city aldermen, town selectmen and plantation assessors of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, at the next general election in the month of November or special statewide election on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

“Shall the Constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the Legislature to reduce the size of the House of Representatives from 151 to 132 and establish the size of the Senate at 33 members?”

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below the words “Yes” or “No.” The ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns, and, if it appears that a majority of the legal voters are in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment shall become part of the Constitution on the date of the proclamation.

Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved: That the Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this resolution necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this resolution is to reduce the size of the House of Representatives from 151 to 132 and establish the size of the Senate at 33.