

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 651

H. P. 536

House of Representatives, February 24, 1977

On motion of Mr. Curran of South Portland, referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Hobbins of Saco.

Cosponsors: Mr. Jensen of Portland, Mr. Wyman of Pittsfield, Mr. Henderson of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Undedicate
the Highway Fund.**

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Constitution, Article IX, Section 19 is repealed.

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 remove the limitation on the expenditure of motor vehicle and motor vehicle fuel revenues?”

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 votes are in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment shall become part of the Constitution on June 30, 1978.

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 Constitutional Resolution is to repeal Article IX, Section 19 of the Maine Constitution. That section previously required that all revenues collected from motor vehicles and motor vehicle fuels be expended solely for the construction, repair, administration and maintenance of highways, bridges and public ways.

The repeal of section 19 would allow the State greater control over the use of these revenues and would allow their application, in times of need, to areas other than highways and bridges. The repeal of this section would in no way prevent the continuation of spending for highways but would merely grant the State the power to divert these funds.