

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 933

H. P. 779

House of Representatives, March 10, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Conners of Franklin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT to Require an Advisory Referendum on the
Equal Rights Amendment.**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Special advisory referendum on ratification by the Maine Legislature of Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Secretary of State shall, 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 Act, hold a special advisory referendum to determine the sentiment of the people on whether or not the Maine Legislature shall repeal its ratification of the proposed 27th amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the so-called "Equal Rights Amendment."

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 108th Maine Legislature meet at the second regular session to reconsider its ratification of the proposed 27th amendment to the United States Constitution, the so-called Equal Rights Amendment?"

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 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

This bill gives the people of Maine an opportunity to vote on whether they are in favor of or opposed to the Equal Rights Amendment. Recent rejection of ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by other states would indicate that the people of Maine should be given an opportunity to speak.