

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1026

H. P. 839

House of Representatives, March 15, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Masterton of Cape Elizabeth.
Cosponsor, Mrs. Najarian of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide that the Membership of the House of Representatives shall be Three Times that of the Senate and that each Senate District shall be Composed of Three Contiguous House Districts.

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 IV, Pt. 1, § 2, 1st sentence, as amended by CR 1975, c. 5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

The House of Representatives shall consist of a membership three times the size of the Senate as designated by the commission established by Article IV, Part Third, Section 1-A. Representatives shall be elected by the qualified electors and hold their office two years from the day next preceding the biennial meeting of the Legislature.

Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 2, § 2, 1st sentence, as repealed and replaced by CR 1975, c. 1, is amended to read: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 House Districts as established under Article IV, Part First, Section 2, and the population of each Senatorial District shall be, as nearly as practicable, 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 First Regular Session of the 108th Legislature to provide that the membership of the House of Representatives shall be three times that of the Senate and that each Senate District shall be composed of three contiguous House Districts?”

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 amendments, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendments shall become part of the Constitution on the day next preceding the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in January, 1985.

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 proposed Constitutional Resolution is to provide that the membership of the House shall be three times that of the Senate and to provide that each Senate District shall be composed of three contiguous House Districts.