

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1520

H. P. 1287

House of Representatives, April 11, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Boudreau of Waterville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Permit the Governor to Veto Items Contained in Bills Appropriating Money and Retaining the Power within the Legislature to Override such Item Vetoes.

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. 3rd, § 2, as last amended by CR 1975, c. 6, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

If any bill presented to the Governor contains one or more items of appropriation of money, 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, and such item or items shall not take effect unless passed over the Governor's objection as provided in this section.

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 permit the Governor to veto items contained in bills appropriating money?”

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 Constitutional Resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution to permit the Governor to veto items contained in bills appropriating money and preserves the right of the Legislature to override the Governor’s veto of any item.