

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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New Draft of: H. P. 536, L. D. 651
(New Title)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1758

H. P. 1532

House of Representatives, May 6, 1977

Reported by Six Members from the Committee on State Government in Report "A" and printed under Joint Rules No. 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Permit the Highway Fund to be used for Public Transportation Purposes.

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 amended to read:

Section 19. Limitation on expenditure of motor vehicle and motor vehicle fuel revenues. All revenues derived from fees, excises and license taxes relating to registration, operation and use of vehicles on public highways, and to fuels used for the propulsion of such vehicles shall be expended solely for cost of administration, statutory refunds and adjustments, payment of debts and liabilities incurred in construction and reconstruction of highways and bridges, the cost of construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of public highways and bridges under the direction and supervision of a state department having jurisdiction over such highways and bridges, **the costs of construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, purchase and operation of systems or parts of systems of transportation which are wholly or partially owned by the public,** and expense for state enforcement of traffic laws and shall not be diverted for any purpose, provided that these limitations shall not apply to revenue from an excise tax on motor vehicles imposed in lieu of personal property tax.

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 permit the Highway Fund to be used for public transportation purposes?”

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 new draft is to permit the Highway Fund to be used for the costs of construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, purchase and operation of systems or parts of systems of transportation which are wholly or partially owned by the public. Such funds could be expended directly by the State or granted to county, local or special district governments.