

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2209

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-1239)
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "E" to S. P. 772, L.D. 2209, RESOLUTION,
Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Limit the Amount
of Government Spending and Taxes which may be Made without Voter
Approval.

Amend the Resolution by striking out all of the 3rd paragraph
and inserting in its place the following:

'1. Control of appropriations. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Constitution, commencing with any fiscal year after 1979, the annual appropriations of the operating budget of a unit of government during any fiscal year shall not exceed the appropriations, as adjusted, for the prior year, except for cost-of-living changes, unless a majority of the voting electors of such unit of government approve a different amount. Any amount appropriated above this limitation shall not be effective until ratified by the electors of such unit of government by referendum. The Legislature may establish for all units of government appropriate exemptions to the funds considered within the established limitations.'

Further amend the Resolution by striking out all of subsection 6 of that part designated Art. I, §22 of the Constitution and inserting in its place the following:

'6. Legislative responsibilities and exclusions. The Legislature may enact implementing statutes consistent with the purposes and intent of this section.

A. For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Unit of government" is the State of Maine, any county, any city, town or plantation, any school district, or any other political subdivision created by the Legislature excluding tax districts;

(2) A "local unit of government" is any political subdivision of the State but is not the State or any of its departments, agencies, bureaus, boards or commissions; if there be no electors of a unit of government, the Legislature shall prescribe the methods by which issues requiring approval of the electors shall be decided;

(3) "Cost of living" means the change in the cost of living experienced by the people of Maine as measured by any reasonable method in accordance with law for the most recently available 12-month period.'

Statement of Fact

The only way to uniformity and equitably establish an expenditure limit is to apply the limit to a unit of government's operating budget. Each unit should have the authority to certify

what funding falls within its operating budget.

(Najarian)

NAME: *Najarian*

TOWN: Portland