

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 225

H. P. 178

House of Representatives, January 30, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Barry of Fort Kent.

Cosponsor: Mr. Brenerman of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Reduce the Age at Which a Person may Serve in the Maine Legislature to 18 for Members of the House of Representatives and 21 for Members of the Senate.**

**Constitutional amendment. RESOLVED:** Two-thirds of each branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendments to the Constitution of this State be proposed:

**Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. First, § 4,** is amended to read:

**Section 4. Qualifications.** No person shall be a member of the House of Representatives, unless he shall, at the commencement of the period for which he is elected, have been five years a citizen of the United States, have arrived at the age of ~~twenty-one~~ **eighteen** years, have been a resident in this State one year; and for the three months next preceding the time of his election shall have been, and, during the period for which he is elected, shall continue to be a resident in the town or district which he represents.

**Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 2nd, § 6,** is amended to read:

**Section 6. Qualifications.** The Senators shall be ~~twenty-five~~ **twenty-one** years of age at the commencement of the term, for which they are elected, and in all other respects their qualifications shall be the same as those of the Representatives.

**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 a 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 amendments proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

“Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended to reduce the age at which a person may serve in the Maine Legislature to 18 for members of the House of Representatives and 21 for members of the Senate?”

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 word “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 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

The purpose of this Constitutional Resolution is to reduce the age at which a person may serve in the Maine Legislature to 18 for members of the House of Representatives and 21 for members of the Senate.