

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 364

H. P. 287

House of Representatives, February 6, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Connolly 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  
Guarantee the Rights, Privileges and Immunities of its Citizens.**

**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. I, Section 6-B additional.**

**Section 6-B. People to have full rights, privileges and immunities of corporations. The people of the State of Maine are guaranteed the full rights, privileges and immunities that are given to any corporation within the State of Maine.**

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

“Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended to guarantee to the citizens of Maine the same rights, privileges and immunities given to corporations?”

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 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

The purpose of this constitutional resolution is to give the people equal business opportunities as that enjoyed by private banking institutions. They will be able to set up their own bookkeeping systems, have checks printed with their own number, create their own demand deposits and put them on equal footing with private banking institutions.