

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1218

H. P. 983

House of Representatives, March 14, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Post of Owl's Head.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to
Establish Property Tax Exemptions for Maine Homesteads.**

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. IX, § 8, as repealed and replaced by CR 1977, c. 6, is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

The Legislature shall establish an exemption from real estate taxes for all owner occupied principal residences and shall also establish a rebate in lieu of a tax exemption for all tenants who lease principal residences. The Legislature shall review the general law relating to this exemption and rebate at least once within three years following each federal decennial census. The Legislature shall provide reimbursement to municipalities for revenue that would be collected from taxes on real estate but for this provision.

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 establish property tax exemptions for Maine homesteads?”

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

This Constitutional Resolution establishes a statewide exemption from the property tax on every principal residence in Maine. Under this proposal, the State would be obligated to reimburse municipalities for their loss of revenue from the homestead exemption.