

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 685

H. P. 608

House of Representatives, February 5, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Webster of Farmington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require that for Certain Counties, a Specific Percentage of the Population be Included in a Separate Senate District.

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

Constitution, Art. IV, Part 2, § 2, first ¶, as amended by CR 1977, c. 4, is further amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

If a county has a population falling between seventy-five percent and one-hundred and five percent of the mean population for Senate seats, if that county is divided in the apportionment of the State into Senate seats, it shall be divided so that residents of the county constitute at least fifty-one percent of the population of one Senate seat.

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 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 require that if a county has a population falling between seventy-five percent and one-hundred and five percent of the mean population for Senate seats, if that county is divided in the apportionment of the State in Senate seats, it shall be divided so that residents of the county constitute at least fifty-one percent of the population of one Senate seat?”

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 purposes of this referendum.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill requires that if a county has a population falling between seventy-five percent and one-hundred and five percent of the mean population for Senate seats, if that county is divided in the apportionment of the State into Senate seats, it shall be divided so that residents of the county constitute at least fifty-one percent of the population of one Senate seat.