

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 981

H. P. 825

House of Representatives, February 24, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Davis of Monmouth.

Cosponsors: Representative Kany of Waterville and Representative Masterton of Cape Elizabeth.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Limit the Frequency with which Items can be Proposed by the Initiative Procedure.

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, Pt. 3, § 18, sub-§ 1, as last amended by CR 1979, c. 3, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

If a bill, resolve or resolution is proposed to the Legislature, the same or a substantially similar bill, resolve or resolution may not be proposed to the Legislature sooner than two years after the initial bill, resolve or resolution was proposed unless the Legislature, by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each House, votes to accept the proposed bill, resolve or resolution.

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 limit the frequency with which Legislation can be proposed by direct initiative?”

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

The purpose of this constitutional resolution is to limit how frequently legislation can be proposed by direct initiative.