

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1355

H. P. 1138

House of Representatives, March 17, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Davies of Orono.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Allowing the Legislature to Impose a Property Tax in Excess of the Cost of Services upon Properties in the Unorganized Territories.

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. IX, § 8, first sentence, as repealed and replaced by CR 1977, c. 6, is amended to read:

All taxes upon real and person estate, assessed by authority of this State, shall be apportioned and assessed equally according to the just value thereof, **except that the Legislature may levy a tax in excess of the cost of services upon real and personal property in the unorganized territories.**

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 allow the Legislature to impose

a property tax in excess of the cost of services upon properties in the unorganized territories?"

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 resolution is to allow the Legislature to impose a property tax in excess of the cost of services upon properties in the unorganized territories.