

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

(New Draft of S.P. 62, L.D. 168)
(New Title)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document No. 731

S.P. 242 In Senate, February 11, 1983

Reported by the Minority from the Committee on State Government and
printed under Joint Rule No. 2.

JOY O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to
the Constitution of Maine to Provide for
Staggered Four-year Terms for Senators.

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 IV, Pt. 2, §1 is repealed and
the following enacted in its place:

Section 1. Number of Senators. The Senate shall
consist of an odd number of Senators, not less than
thirty-one nor more than thirty-five, elected at the
same time as Representatives by the qualified elec-

1 tors of the districts into which the State shall be
2 from time to time divided. The term of office for
3 Senators shall be 2 years, except as provided in this
4 section. Beginning with the general elections to be
5 held in 1986, Senators in the even-numbered districts
6 shall be elected to four-year terms. In 1988, Sena-
7 tors in the odd-numbered districts shall be elected
8 to four-year terms.

9 Constitutional referendum procedure; form of
10 question; effective date. Resolved: That the city
11 aldermen, town selectmen and plantation assessors of
12 this State shall notify the inhabitants of their
13 respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in
14 the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide
15 election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday
16 following the first Monday of November following the
17 passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratifi-
18 cation of the amendment proposed in this resolution
19 by voting upon the following question:

20 "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended as
21 proposed by a resolution of the Legislature to estab-
22 lish four-year terms of office for Senators in even-
23 numbered districts beginning in 1986, and four-year
24 terms of office for Senators in odd-numbered dis-
25 tricts beginning in 1988?"

26 The legal voters of each city, town and
27 plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and
28 shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark
29 placed within the corresponding square below the word
30 "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received,
31 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and
32 plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary
33 of State in the same manner as votes for members of
34 the Legislature. The Governor shall review the
35 returns and, if it appears that a majority of the
36 legal votes are in favor of the amendment, the Gover-
37 nor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the
38 amendment shall become part of the Constitution on
39 the date of the proclamation.

40 Secretary of State shall prepare ballots.
41 Resolved: That the Secretary of State shall prepare
42 and furnish to each city, town and plantation all
43 ballots, returns and copies of this resolution neces-

1 sary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

2 STATEMENT OF FACT

3 This new draft changes L.D. 168 by staggering the
4 introduction of the 4-year term of office for Sena-
5 tors. According to the provisions of this new draft,
6 Senators in even-numbered districts would be elected
7 to 4-year terms of office beginning in 1986, and
8 Senators in odd-numbered districts would be elected
9 to 4-year terms of office beginning in 1988.

10

2306020883