

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1248

6  
7 H.P. 968

House of Representatives, March 17, 1983

8 On Motion of Representative Carroll of Limerick, referred to the  
9 Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11 Presented by Representative Kane of So. Portland.  
12

13 STATE OF MAINE  
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE  
17

18 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to  
19 the Constitution of Maine to Permit Moneys  
20 Dedicated to the Highway Fund to be Used to  
21 Provide Operational Subsidies for Various  
22 Forms of Surface Passenger Transit.  
23

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

28 Constitution, Art. IX, §19 is amended to read:

29 Section 19. Limitation on expenditure of motor  
30 vehicle and motor vehicle fuel revenues; pro-  
31 viso. All revenues derived from fees, excises and  
32 license taxes relating to registration, operation and  
33 use of vehicles on public highways, and to fuels used  
34 for the propulsion of such vehicles shall be expended  
35 solely for cost of administration, statutory refunds

1 and adjustments, payment of debts and liabilities  
2 incurred in construction and reconstruction of high-  
3 ways and bridges, the cost of construction, recon-  
4 struction, maintenance and repair of public highways  
5 and bridges under the direction and supervision of a  
6 state department having jurisdiction over such high-  
7 ways and bridges and, expense for state enforcement  
8 of traffic laws and for operational subsidies for  
9 various forms of surface passenger transit and shall  
10 not be diverted for any purpose, provided that these  
11 limitations shall not apply to revenue from an excise  
12 tax on motor vehicles imposed in lieu of personal  
13 property tax.

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

25 "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended to  
26 permit dedicated revenues from the Highway Fund  
27 to be used to provide operating subsidies for  
28 various forms of surface passenger transit, such  
29 as buses, trains and ferries?"

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

1           Secretary of State shall prepare ballots.  
2 Resolved: That the Secretary of State shall prepare  
3 and furnish to each city, town and plantation all  
4 ballots, returns and copies of this resolution neces-  
5 sary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

6   STATEMENT OF FACT

7           The purpose of this constitutional resolution is  
8 to permit dedicated revenues from the Highway Fund to  
9 be used to provide operating subsidies for various  
10 forms of surface passenger transportation, such as  
11 buses, trains and ferries. If this resolution is  
12 adopted, it is expected that in future years other  
13 revenue sources will be tapped to provide the funds  
14 to the Highway Fund from which these subsidies will  
15 come.

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