

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1422

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S.P. 469

In Senate, April 6, 1983

On Motion of Senator Pray of Penobscot, referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Shute of Waldo.

Cosponsors: Senator Hayes of Penobscot, Representative Rolde of York and Representative Masterton of Cape Elizabeth.

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STATE OF MAINE

In the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three

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JOINT RESOLUTION TO RATIFY AN AMENDMENT  
TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES  
TO PROVIDE FOR A DELAY IN AN INCREASE IN  
COMPENSATION TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS UNTIL  
AN INTERVENING ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HAS OCCURRED

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WHEREAS, the 1st Congress of the United States of America at its first session, in both Houses, by a constitutional majority of two-thirds thereof, adopted the following proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States of America in the following words, to wit:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring that the following [article] be proposed to the legislatures of the several states, as [an amendment] to the constitution of the United States, . . . which [article], when ratified by three fourths of the said legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, viz.:

## ARTICLE

"No law varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.", now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: By the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 111th Legislature, now assembled, that such proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America be and the same is hereby ratified; and be it further

RESOLVED: That certified copies of this resolution be forwarded by the Secretary of State to the Administrator of General Services, Washington, D.C., and the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this resolution is to ratify one of the original 12 amendments to the Constitution submitted to the states by the first Congress in 1789, but which was never ratified. Ten of the original 12 proposed amendments were ratified and became the "Bill of Rights." Because there was no time limit attached to ratification, as is common with present day proposed amendments, this amendment is still a live issue, even after 194 years. In fact, 6 states--Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Delaware, Vermont and Virginia--have already ratified it.

Language accompanying these original 12 proposals for amendment characterized them as "extending the ground of public confidence in the government [as] will best insure the beneficent ends of its institution." This amendment is designed to do that. By requiring that any pay increase voted by Congress for itself be delayed until after the next intervening election for members of the House of Representatives, members of Congress will be answerable to the electorate at the polls for any pay hike. This amendment should go a long way toward providing more public involvement in a subject that has recently engendered large amounts of public disgust and outcry - clandestine pay increases for members of Congress by Congress.

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