

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 2281

7 H.P. 1728

House of Representatives, March 19, 1984

8 Submitted by the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, pursuant to the
9 Revised Statutes, Title 1, chapter 31.

10 Reported by Representative Higgins from the Committee on Taxation
pursuant to M.R.S.A., Title 1, chapter 31 and printed under Joint Rule 18.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11
12
13 STATE OF MAINE
14

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

18 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the
19 Constitution of Maine to Relieve Municipalities
20 from the Loss of Tax Base Caused by Property
21 Tax Exemptions by Requiring that the State Pay
22 at Least 50% of the Cost of any New State
23 Mandated Programs.
24

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

29 Constitution, Art. IV, Part 3, Section 24 is en-
30 acted to read:

31 Section 24. The Legislature may not enact any
32 new program after January 1, 1985, which requires an
33 increase in the local property tax without providing
34 that the State shall pay at least 50% of the cost of
35 the program.

1 Constitutional referendum procedure; form of
2 question; effective date. Resolved: That the city
3 aldermen, town selectmen and plantation assessors of
4 this State shall notify the inhabitants of their re-
5 spective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in
6 the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide
7 election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday
8 following the first Monday of November following the
9 passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratifi-
10 cation of the amendment proposed in this resolution
11 by voting upon the following question:

12 "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended
13 to provide that the Legislature may not enact any
14 new program which requires an increase in the lo-
15 cal property tax without providing that the State
16 shall pay for at least fifty percent of the
17 cost?"

18 The legal voters of each city, town and
19 plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and
20 shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark
21 placed within the corresponding square below the word
22 "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received,
23 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and
24 plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary
25 of State in the same manner as votes for members of
26 the Legislature. The Governor shall review the re-
27 turns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal
28 votes are in favor of the amendment, the Governor
29 shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amend-
30 ment shall become part of the Constitution of Maine
31 on the date of the proclamation.

32 Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Re-
33 solved: That the Secretary of State shall prepare
34 and furnish to each city, town and plantation all
35 ballots, returns and copies of this resolution neces-
36 sary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This constitutional resolution provides that the Legislature may not enact any new program which requires an increase in the local property tax without providing that the State will pay at least fifty percent of the cost.

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