

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 549

6  
7 H.P. 400

House of Representatives, February 13, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on State Government suggested and ordered  
9 printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Brown of Livermore Falls.

11  
12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE  
16

17 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment  
18 to the Constitution of Maine  
19 Reducing the Size of the House of  
20 Representatives to 99 Members.  
21

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

26 Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. 1, §2 is amended to  
27 read:

28 Section 2. Number of Representatives; biennial  
29 terms; division of the State into districts for House  
30 of Representatives. The House of Representatives  
31 shall consist of ~~151~~ 99 members, to be elected by  
32 the qualified electors, and hold their office 2 years  
33 from the day next preceding the first Wednesday in  
34 December following the general election. The Legis-  
35 lature which convenes in ~~1983~~ 1987 and every tenth  
36 year thereafter shall cause the State to be divided

1 into districts for the choice of one Representative  
2 for each district. The number of Representatives es-  
3 tablished for the following legislative biennium  
4 shall be divided into the number of inhabitants of  
5 the State exclusive of foreigners not naturalized ac-  
6 cording to the latest Federal Decennial Census or a  
7 State Census previously ordered by the Legislature to  
8 coincide with the Federal Decennial Census, to deter-  
9 mine a median population figure for each Representa-  
10 tive District. Each Representative District shall be  
11 formed of contiguous and compact territory and shall  
12 cross political subdivision lines the least number of  
13 times necessary to establish as nearly as practicable  
14 equally populated districts. Whenever the population  
15 of a municipality entitles it to more than one dis-  
16 trict, all whole districts shall be drawn within mun-  
17 icipal boundaries. Any population remainder within  
18 the municipality shall be included in a district  
19 drawn to cross the municipal boundary, provided that  
20 such population remainder of the municipality must be  
21 contiguous to another municipality or municipalities  
22 included in the district.

23 Constitutional referendum procedure; form of  
24 question; effective date. Resolved: That the city  
25 aldermen, town selectmen and plantation assessors of  
26 this State shall notify the inhabitants of their re-  
27 spective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in  
28 the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide  
29 election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday  
30 following the first Monday of November following the  
31 passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratifi-  
32 cation of the amendment proposed in this resolution  
33 by voting upon the following question:

34 "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended as  
35 proposed by a resolution of the Legislature to reduce  
36 the size of the House of Representatives from 151 to  
37 99 members?"

38 The legal voters of each city, town and  
39 plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and  
40 shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark  
41 placed within the corresponding square below the word  
42 "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received,  
43 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and  
44 plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary

1 of State in the same manner as votes for members of  
2 the Legislature. The Governor shall review the re-  
3 turns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal  
4 votes are in favor of the amendment, the Governor  
5 shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amend-  
6 ment shall become part of the Constitution on the  
7 date of the proclamation.

8 Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Re-  
9 solved: That the Secretary of State shall prepare  
10 and furnish to each city, town and plantation all  
11 ballots, returns and copies of this resolution neces-  
12 sary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

13 STATEMENT OF FACT

14 The purpose of this resolution is to reduce the  
15 size of the House of Representatives from 151 to 99.

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