

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1093

6  
7 S.P. 394

In Senate, March 21, 1985

8 Referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent down for  
9 concurrence and ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President Pray of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Senator Dow of Kennebec, Senator Violette of  
11 Aroostook and Senator Perkins of Hancock.

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 to Provide for Staggered 4-year Terms for  
20 Senators.  
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 IV, Pt. 2, §1 is repealed and  
27 the following enacted in its place:

28 Section 1. Number of Senators. The Senate shall  
29 consist of an odd number of Senators, not less than  
30 31 nor more than 35, elected at the same time as Rep-  
31 resentatives by the qualified electors of the dis-  
32 tricts into which the State shall be from time to  
33 time divided. The term of office for Senators shall  
34 be for 2 years, except as provided in this section.  
35 Beginning with the general elections to be held in  
36 1986, Senators in the odd-numbered districts shall be

1 elected to 4-year terms. In 1988, Senators in the  
2 even-numbered districts shall be elected to 4-year  
3 terms.

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

15 "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended as  
16 proposed by a resolution of the Legislature to estab-  
17 lish 4-year terms of office for Senators in odd-  
18 numbered districts beginning in 1986, and 4-year  
19 terms of office for Senators in even-numbered dis-  
20 tricts beginning in 1988?"

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

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

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STATEMENT OF FACT

This constitutional resolution staggers the 4-year term of office for Senators. According to this resolution, Senators in odd-numbered districts would be elected to 4-year terms of office beginning in 1986, and Senators in even-numbered districts would be elected to 4-year terms of office beginning in 1988.

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