

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 173

S.P. 87

In Senate, February 3, 1987

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate
Presented by President PRAY of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Senator TUTTLE of York, Senator DOW of
Kennebec, Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment
2 to the Constitution of Maine
3 to Change the Terms of Members of the Senate
4 from 2 Years to 4 Years.
5

6 Constitutional amendment. RESOLVED: Two thirds
7 of each branch of the Legislature concurring, that
8 the following amendment to the Constitution of Maine
9 be proposed:

10 Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. Second, §1 is repealed
11 and the following enacted in its place:

12 Section 1. Number of Senators. The Senate shall
13 consist of an odd number of Senators, not less than
14 31 nor more than 35, elected at the same time as Rep-
15 resentatives by the qualified electors of the dis-
16 tricts into which the State shall be from time to

1 time divided. The term of office for Senators shall
2 be for 2 years, except as provided in this section.
3 Beginning with the general elections to be held in
4 1988, Senators in the odd-numbered districts shall be
5 elected to 4-year terms. In 1990, Senators in the
6 even-numbered districts shall be elected to 4-year
7 terms.

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

19 "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended to
20 establish 4-year terms of office for Senators in odd-
21 numbered districts beginning in 1988, and 4-year
22 terms of office for Senators in even-numbered dis-
23 tricts beginning in 1990?"

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

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

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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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 1988, and Senators in even-numbered districts would be elected to 4-year terms of office beginning in 1990.

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