

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1393

H.P. 1035 House of Representatives, April 30, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Economic Development
suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative MURPHY of Kennebunk.
Cosponsored by Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Senators
GOULD of Waldo and ERWIN of Oxford.

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 **Allowing Municipalities with Opportunity Zones**
4 **to Authorize Selective Tax Exemptions to New or**
5 **Expanded Businesses within the Zone.**
6

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

11 **Constitution, Article IX, §8, sub-§5 is enacted**
12 **to read:**

13 **5. Opportunity zones. Municipalities with a**
14 **zone, designated in accordance with procedures estab-**
15 **lished by the Legislature as an economic development**

1 opportunity zone, may exempt from property taxation,
2 in whole or in part, the personal property of those
3 business enterprises locating or expanding facilities
4 within the zone after the date of designation of the
5 zone, provided that such new or expanded facilities
6 retain or create employment opportunities. Any ex-
7 emption granted shall be for a period not to exceed
8 10 years. Municipalities with such zones shall au-
9 thorize such exemptions by vote of the governing body
10 of the municipality. Authorizations may be made with
11 or without reference to specific business enter-
12 prises.

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

24 "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended
25 to permit municipalities, with state-designated
26 economic development opportunity zones, to grant
27 selective tax exemptions on the personal proper-
28 ty of businesses locating or expanding facili-
29 ties in the zones for a period of up to 10
30 years, if the facilities retain or create em-
31 ployment opportunities?"

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

1 ment shall become part of the Constitution on the
2 date of the proclamation.

3 Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Re-
4 solved: That the Secretary of State shall prepare
5 and furnish to each city, town and plantation all
6 ballots, returns and copies of this resolution neces-
7 sary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

8

STATEMENT OF FACT

9 This bill amends the Constitution of Maine, to
10 permit municipalities, with economic development op-
11 portunity zones, to grant selective tax exemptions on
12 personal property of businesses locating or expanding
13 facilities in the zones for a period of up to 10
14 years, if the facilities retain or create employment
15 opportunities.

16

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