

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1593

H.P. 1167 House of Representatives, May 15, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative HEPBURN of Skowhegan.
Cosponsored by Representatives SEAVEY of Kennebunkport,
LOOK of Jonesboro and BICKFORD of Jay.

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 Limiting the Power of the Legislature to Raise
4 Taxes.
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. IX, §20 is enacted to read:

11 Section 20. Taxation measure. Any taxation mea-
12 sure which would result in an increase in state reve-
13 nues of \$10,000,000 or more within the next complete
14 fiscal year following its effective date shall not
15 become law unless enacted by a majority vote of both
16 Houses and ratified by a majority of the electors
17 voting thereon at a general or special election.

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 Maine Legislature need a majori-
13 ty vote of both Houses as well as ratification
14 by a majority of the electors voting in order to
15 raise taxes?"

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

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

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The purpose of this bill is to limit the ability of the Maine Legislature to raise taxes.

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