

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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JANUARY 11, 1988**

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1949

H.P. 1432 House of Representatives, January 4, 1988
Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Received by the Clerk of the House on December 31, 1987.
Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government and
ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.
EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative DIAMOND of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senators CLARK of Cumberland, PERKINS of
Hancock and Representative FOSTER of Ellsworth.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution**
2 **of Maine to Make the Language of the**
3 **Constitution Gender Neutral.**
4

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

9 **Constitution, Art. X, §6 is amended to read:**

1 Section 6. Constitution to be arranged by Chief
2 Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court; Constitution to
3 be enrolled and printed with laws; Supreme law of the
4 State. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial
5 Court shall arrange the Constitution, as amended,
6 under appropriate titles and in proper articles, parts
7 and sections, omitting all sections, clauses and words
8 not in force, causing the language to be gender
9 neutral and making no other changes in the provisions
10 or language thereof, and shall submit the same to the
11 Legislature; and such arrangement of the Constitution
12 shall be made and submitted to the regular session of
13 the Legislature in ~~1973~~ 1989 and every 10 years
14 thereafter unless sooner authorized by the
15 Legislature; and the draft and arrangement, when
16 approved by the Legislature, shall be enrolled on
17 parchment and deposited in the office of the Secretary
18 of State; and printed copies thereof shall be prefixed
19 to the books containing the Revised Statutes of the
20 State. And the Constitution, with the amendments made
21 thereto, in accordance with the provisions thereof,
22 shall be the supreme law of the State.

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
27 respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in
28 the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide
29 election, at the next general election in the month of
30 November following the passage of this resolution, to
31 vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed
32 in this resolution by voting upon the following
33 question:

34 "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended to
35 authorize the Chief Justice of the Supreme
36 Judicial Court to provide gender-neutral language
37 in the Constitution of Maine by 1989?"

38 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation
39 shall vote by ballot on this question, and shall
40 designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed
41 within the corresponding square below the word "Yes"

1 or "No." The ballots shall be received, sorted,
2 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation
3 meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in
4 the same manner as votes for members of the
5 Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns
6 and, if it appears that a majority of the legal voters
7 are in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall
8 proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment
9 shall become part of the Constitution on the date of
10 the proclamation.

11 Secretary of State shall prepare ballots.
12 Resolved: That the Secretary of State shall prepare
13 and furnish to each city, town and plantation all
14 ballots, returns and copies of this resolution
15 necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

16 STATEMENT OF FACT

17 This resolution eliminates gender-biased language
18 from the Constitution of Maine.

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