

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 1990

---

Legislative Document

No. 2459

---

H.P. 1793

House of Representatives, March 29, 1990

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

*Ed Pert*

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative CARTER of Winslow.

Cosponsored by Senator PEARSON of Penobscot, Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake and President PRAY of Penobscot.

---

STATE OF MAINE

---

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY

---

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine to Ensure Proper Oversight of State Spending.**

---

(AFTER DEADLINE)



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

4  
6 **Constitution, Art. IV, Part Third, §9-A is enacted to read:**

8 **Section 9-A. Financial oversight.** The Legislature may  
authorize a joint standing committee of the Legislature to  
provide legislative oversight of state finances. The committee  
10 may meet while the Legislature is in session and during the  
interim and has the power to investigate and consider any matter  
12 relative to revenues, budgets, appropriations, allocations,  
expenditures, finances or any other fiscal matter of the State.  
14 Any financial order or other action transferring or accepting  
funds or that otherwise varies the terms of a duly enacted  
16 appropriations law is subject to the prior approval of the  
committee.

18 ; and be it further

20  
22 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective  
date. Resolved:** That the city aldermen, town selectmen and  
plantation assessors of this State shall notify the inhabitants  
24 of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the  
manner prescribed by law for holding a general election, at the  
26 next general election in the month of November following passage  
of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the  
28 amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the  
following question:

30 "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended as proposed by a  
32 resolution of the Legislature to provide for legislative  
oversight of state finances?"

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

46 ; and be it further

2           **Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the  
3 Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town  
4 and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this resolution  
5 necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.  
6  
7

8  
9  
10   **STATEMENT OF FACT**

11           This resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution of  
12 Maine that allows the Legislature to exercise continuing  
13 financial oversight powers and to delegate them to a joint  
14 standing committee. Financial orders or other actions that vary  
15 the terms of an enacted appropriation would require the prior  
16 approval of the committee. This is a companion measure to LR  
17 3762 that enacts statutory changes to effectuate the  
18 constitutional amendment. Those statutory changes are contingent  
19 on voter ratification of this measure.  
20