

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1647

H.P. 1122

House of Representatives, April 24, 1991

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative LIPMAN of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
to Reduce the Size of the Legislature.**

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

6 **Constitution, Art. IV, Part First, §2, as amended by CR 1985, c.**
7 **3, is further amended to read:**

8 **Section 2. Number of Representatives; biennial terms;**
9 **division of the State into districts for House of**
10 **Representatives. The House of Representatives shall consist of**
11 **151 members, except that, for the Legislature that convenes in**
12 **1997 and thereafter, the House of Representatives shall consist**
13 **of 99 members, to be elected by the qualified electors, and hold**
14 **their office 2 years from the day next preceding the first**
15 **Wednesday in December following the general election. The**
16 **Legislature which convenes in 1983 1995 and every 10th year**
17 **thereafter shall cause the State to be divided into districts for**
18 **the choice of one Representative for each district. The number**
19 **of Representatives shall be divided into the number of**
20 **inhabitants of the State exclusive of foreigners not naturalized**
21 **according to the latest Federal Decennial Census or a State**
22 **Census previously ordered by the Legislature to coincide with the**
23 **Federal Decennial Census, to determine a mean population figure**
24 **for each Representative District. Each Representative District**
25 **shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory and shall**
26 **cross political subdivision lines the least number of times**
27 **necessary to establish as nearly as practicable equally populated**
28 **districts. Whenever the population of a municipality entitles it**
29 **to more than one district, all whole districts shall be drawn**
30 **within municipal boundaries. Any population remainder within the**
31 **municipality shall be included in a district with contiguous**
32 **territory and shall be kept intact.**

34 **Constitution, Art. IV, Part Second, §1 is amended to read:**

36 **Section 1. Number of Senators. The Senate shall consist of**
37 **an odd number of Senators, not less than 31 nor more than 35,**
38 **except, for the Legislature that convenes in 1997 and thereafter,**
39 **not less than 31 nor more than 33, elected at the same time and**
40 **for the same term as Representatives by the qualified electors of**
41 **the districts into which the State shall be from time to time**
42 **divided.**

44 ; and be it further

46 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective**
47 **date. Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall
48 notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and
49 plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding
50 a statewide election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday
51 following the first Monday of November following the passage of
52 this

2 resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment
proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

4 "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended as proposed by a
6 resolution of the Legislature to reduce the size of the
House of Representatives from 151 members to 99 members and
8 limit the size of the Senate from no more than 35 members to
no more than 33 members?"

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

22 **Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the
24 Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town
and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this resolution
26 necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

28
30 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

32 This resolution reduces the size of the House of
Representatives from 151 members to 99 members and the size of
34 the Senate from no more than 35 members to no more than 33
members. The redistricting will be done by the 117th Legislature
36 and the reduction in the size of the bodies takes effect for the
118th Legislature.