



# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## **SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1992**

Legislative Document

No. 2337

### H.P. 1660

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House of Representatives, February 13, 1992

Submitted by the Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring pursuant to Public Law 1991 chapter 139.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 18.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Reduce the Size of the House of Representatives.

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

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

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Section 2. Number of Representatives; biennial terms; 8 division of the State into districts for House of 10 Representatives. The House of Representatives shall consist of 151 members,-to through the term of the Legislature convening in 12 1993. The membership of the House of Representatives beginning with the Legislature convening in 1995 shall consist of not less 14 than 99 nor more than 123. Members of the House of Representatives shall be elected by the qualified electors, and 16 hold their office 2 years from the day next preceding the first Wednesday in December following the general election. The 18 Legislature which convenes in 1983 and every 10th year thereafter shall cause the State to be divided into districts for the choice 20 of one Representative for each district. The number of Representatives shall be divided into the number of inhabitants of the State exclusive of foreigners not naturalized according to 22 the latest Federal Decennial Census or a State Census previously ordered by the Legislature to coincide with the Federal Decennial 24 Census, to determine a mean population figure for each 26 Representative District. Each Representative District shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory and shall cross political subdivision lines the least number of times necessary 28 establish as nearly as practicable equally populated tö districts. Whenever the population of a municipality entitles it 30 to more than one district, all whole districts shall be drawn 32 within municipal boundaries. Any population remainder within the municipality shall be included in a district with contiguous territory and shall be kept intact. 34

; and be it further

Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date. Resolved: That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a general election, at the next general election in the month of November following passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to reduce the size of the House of Representatives from 151 to no less than 99 and no more than 123 members?"

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The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a 2 cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, 4 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as 6. votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review 8 the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim 10 that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the Constitution on the date of the proclamation; and be it further

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

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#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This resolution is one of the measures submitted by the 22 Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring. The commission's report contains a minority view on this issue. 24

The resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to reduce the size of the House of Representatives from 151 members to no more than 123 and no less than 99.

#### L.D.2337