

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 551

H.P. 432

House of Representatives, February 18, 1993

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

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative LIPMAN of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BENNETT of Norway, BRUNO of Raymond, CARLETON of Wells, FOSS of Yarmouth, GREENLAW of Standish, HEINO of Boothbay, JONES of Pittsfield, KUTASI of Bridgton, LEMONT of Kittery, LINDAHL of Northport, OTT of York, PENDEXTER of Scarborough, PENDLETON of Scarborough, PLOWMAN of Hampden, REED of Falmouth, SIMONEAU of Thomaston, SPEAR of Nobleboro, TAYLOR of Cumberland, TRUE of Fryeburg, Senators: AMERO of Cumberland, BUTLAND of Cumberland, CARPENTER of York, SUMMERS of Cumberland.

2 Constitutional amendment. **RESOLVED:** Two thirds of each
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.
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 the Senate shall consist of 33 members, elected at the same time
40 and for the same term as Representatives by the qualified
41 electors of the districts into which the State shall be from time
42 to time 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 special statewide election, on the
51 Tuesday following the first Monday of November following the
52 passage

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

6 "Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended as proposed by a
resolution of the Legislature to reduce the size of the
8 House of Representatives from 151 members to 99 members and
limit the size of the Senate from no more than 35 members to
10 33 members?"

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

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

28
30 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

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