MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 1277

H.P. 948

House of Representatives, April 15, 1993

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide the Governor with a Line-item Veto.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative ZIRNKILTON of Mount Desert. Cosponsored by Representative: HILLOCK of Gorham.

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 Third, §2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. A line-item veto of items of appropriation or allocation bills. The Governor has power to disapprove any item or items of a bill making an appropriation or allocation of funds. The Governor shall specify the distinct item or items vetoed and the part or parts of the bill not specifically vetoed become law, and the item or items of appropriations or allocations disapproved are void, unless passed over the Governor's veto as provided in Section 2, except that, for items vetoed pursuant to this section, a majority of all of the elected members in each house is sufficient to override the veto.

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; 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 statewide election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following the 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 give the Governor a line-item veto over expenditures of state funds and providing that vetoed items may be passed over the Governor's veto by a majority of all of the elected members of the Senate and the House of Representatives?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor 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 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 proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to give the Governor a line-item veto over appropriations and allocations. Under the terms of the proposed amendment, a veto of an appropriation or allocation may be overriden by a majority vote of all the elected members of the Senate and the House of Representatives.