

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)



116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1994

Legislative Document

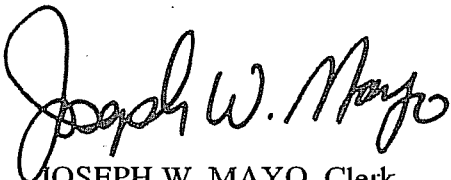
No. 1933

H.P. 1419

House of Representatives, February 24, 1994

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

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative LIPMAN of Augusta. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)
Cosponsored by Representatives: BENNETT of Norway, BRUNO of Raymond, DiPIETRO of South Portland, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, PLOURDE of Biddeford, SMALL of Bath, STEVENS of Sabattus, TAYLOR of Cumberland, Senators: AMERO of Cumberland, BUTLAND of Cumberland, CAHILL of Sagadahoc, CARPENTER of York, GOULD of Waldo, HANLEY of Oxford, SUMMERS of Cumberland.

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 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, then the Legislature
17 that convenes in 2003 and every 10th year thereafter, shall cause
18 the State to be divided into districts for the choice of one
19 Representative for each district. The number of Representatives
20 shall be divided into the number of inhabitants of the State
21 exclusive of foreigners not naturalized according to the latest
22 Federal Decennial Census or a State Census previously ordered by
23 the Legislature to coincide with the Federal Decennial Census, to
24 determine a mean population figure for each Representative
25 District. Each Representative District shall be formed of
26 contiguous and compact territory and shall cross political
27 subdivision lines the least number of times necessary to
28 establish as nearly as practicable equally populated districts.
29 Whenever the population of a municipality entitles it to more
30 than one district, all whole districts shall be drawn within
31 municipal boundaries. Any population remainder within the
32 municipality shall be included in a district with contiguous
33 territory and shall be kept intact.

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

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

46 ; and be it further

48 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective**
49 **date. Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall
50 notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and
51 plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding
52 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

2 resolution by voting upon the following question:

4 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to reduce
6 the size of the House of Representatives from 151 members to
99 members and limit the size of the Senate from no more
than 35 members to 33 members?"

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

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

26
28 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

30 This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to
reduce the size of the House of Representatives from 151 members
32 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
117th Legislature and the reduction in the size of the bodies
34 takes effect for the 118th Legislature.

36 The resolution also requires redistricting again in 2003 and
38 every 10 years thereafter so that the redistricting is more
closely aligned with the federal census figures.