# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 149

H.P. 114

House of Representatives, January 17, 1995

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Lower the Age of Eligibility to Serve in the Legislature.

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

Presented by Representative VOLENIK of Sedgwick.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, AHEARNE of Madawaska, DAVIDSON of Brunswick, KILKELLY of Wiscasset, POVICH of Ellsworth,

RICHARDSON of Portland, SHIAH of Bowdoinham, TREAT of Gardiner, Senator: RUHLIN

of Penobscot.

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, Pt. First, §4 is amended to read:

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Section 4. Residency requirement. No A person shall may not be a member of the House of Representatives, unless the person shall, at the commencement of the period for which the person is elected, have has been 5 years a citizen of the United States, have has arrived at the age of 21 18 years, have has been a resident in this State one year; and for the 3 months next preceding the time of this person's election shall-have has been, and, during the period for which elected, shall-eentinue continues to be a resident in the district which that person represents.

No  $\underline{\mathbf{A}}$  person may <u>not</u> be a candidate for election as a member of the House of Representatives unless, at the time of the nomination for placement on the primary, general or special election ballot, that person is a resident in the district which the candidate seeks to represent.

### Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. Second, §6 is amended to read:

Section 6. Qualifications. The Senators shall-be-25 must be 21 years of age or older at the commencement of the term, for which they are elected, and in all other respects their qualifications shall---be are the same as those of the Representatives.

32 ; 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:

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"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to lower the age requirements for State Senators from 25 years of age to 21 years of age and for Members of the House of Representatives from 21 years of age to 18 years of age?"

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

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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

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This bill lowers the age requirements for State Senators from 25 to 21 and for Members of the House of Representatives from 21 to 18.