

# 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)



# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

---

Legislative Document

No. 479

H.P. 356

House of Representatives, January 28, 1997

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine  
to Ensure that the Composition of the Legislature Reflects the  
Socio-economic Makeup of the Population of the State.**

---

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Penobscot.  
Cosponsored by Senator KILKELLY of Lincoln and  
Representatives: GIERINGER of Portland, JONES of Bar Harbor, LEMKE of Westbrook,  
LEMONT of Kittery, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, PIEH of Bremen, SKOGLUND of  
St. George, VEDRAL of Buxton.

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, §1** is amended to read:

8           **Section 1. Legislative department; style of acts.** It is  
10 the desire of the people of the State that the membership of the  
12 Legislature be representative of the socio-economic and  
14 occupational background of the general population. Compensation  
16 and benefits for Legislators must be established to ensure equal  
18 access to service in the Legislature for all citizens. The  
legislative power shall be vested in 2 distinct branches, a House  
of Representatives, and a Senate, each to have a negative on the  
other, and both to be styled the Legislature of Maine, but the  
people reserve to themselves power to propose laws and to enact  
or reject the same at the polls independent of the Legislature,  
and also reserve power at their own option to approve or reject  
at the polls any Act, bill, resolve or resolution passed by the  
joint action of both branches of the Legislature, and the style  
of their laws and Acts shall be, "Be it enacted by the people of  
22 the State of Maine."

24 ; and be it further

26           **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective**  
28 **date. Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall  
notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and  
30 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  
32 this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment  
proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

34           "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to include  
36 the desire of the people of the State that the membership of  
the Legislature reflect the socio-economic and occupational  
38 background of the State and that compensation for  
Legislators ensure equal access to service in the  
40 Legislature for all citizens?"

42           The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall  
vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a  
44 cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below  
the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,  
46 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings  
and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as  
48 votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review  
the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes

2 are cast in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim  
that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the  
4 Constitution on the date of the proclamation; and be it further

6 **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  
8 necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.

10

### SUMMARY

12

14 This resolution asks the voters to decide if they wish to  
amend the Constitution of Maine to include language that  
specifies that it is the desire of the people of the State that  
16 the membership of the Legislature be representative of the  
socio-economic and occupational background of the general  
18 population and that compensation and benefits for Legislators  
must be established to ensure equal access to service in the  
20 Legislature for all citizens.