MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1160

H.P. 855

House of Representatives, February 20, 1997

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish 4-year Terms for Constitutional Officers.

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

OSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative AHEARNE of Madawaska. Cosponsored by Representatives: HATCH of Skowhegan, TUTTLE of Sanford, Senator: NUTTING of Androscoggin.

	Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two thirds of each
2	branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendments to the Constitution of Maine be proposed:
4	
_	Constitution, Art. V, Part Second, §1 is amended to read:
6	Section 1. Election. The Secretary of State shall be
8	chosen biennially, except beginning in 1998 the Secretary of
	State shall be chosen every 4 years at the first session of the
10	Legislature, by joint ballot of the Senators and Representatives in convention.
12	
	Constitution, Art. V, Part Third, §1 is amended to read:
14	
	Section 1. Election. The Treasurer shall be chosen
16	biennially, except beginning in 1998 the Treasurer shall be
18	chosen every 4 years at the first session of the Legislature, by joint ballot of the Senators, and Representatives in convention.
10	Joint Dailor of the Benacors, and Representatives in convention.
20	Constitution, Art. IX, §11 is amended to read:
22	Section 11. Attorney General. The Attorney General shall
	be chosen biennially, except beginning in 1998 the Attorney
24	General shall be chosen every 4 years by joint ballot of the Senators and Representatives in convention. Vacancy in said
26	office occurring when the Legislature is not in session, may be filled by appointment by the Governor, subject to confirmation as
28	required by this Constitution for Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court.
30.	Constitution, Art. IX, §24 is enacted to read:
32	Section 24. State Auditor. Beginning in 1998, the State
34	Auditor must be chosen every 4 years.
36	e and he it funther
38	; and be it further
40	Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date. Resolved: That the municipal officers of this State shall
42	notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and
	plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding
44	a statewide election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday
	following the first Monday of November following the passage of
46	this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendments

proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

48

"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to establish 4-year terms for the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the State Auditor?"

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.

SUMMARY

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to establish 4-year terms for the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the State Auditor.