



## **118th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## **FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997**

Legislative Document

No. 1861

S.P. 639

In Senate, May 2, 1997

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide Equal Educational Funding.

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PARADIS of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Representative BELANGER of Wallagrass and Senators: BENOIT of Franklin, MURRAY of Penobscot, Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, BUNKER of Kossuth Township, DESMOND of Mapleton, JOY of Crystal, KNEELAND of Easton, PERRY of Bangor. **Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two thirds of each branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of Maine be proposed:

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Constitution, Art. VIII, Part First, §1 is amended to read:

Section 1. Legislature shall require towns to support public schools; duty of Legislature. A general diffusion of the 8 advantages of education being essential to the preservation of 10 the rights and liberties of the people; to promote this important object, the Legislature are authorized, and it shall be their 12 duty to require, the several towns to make suitable provision, at their own expense, for the support and maintenance of public 14schools; and it shall further be their duty to encourage and suitably endow, from time to time, as the circumstances of the 16 people may authorize, all academies, colleges and seminaries of learning within the State; provided, that no donation, grant or 18endowment shall at any time be made by the Legislature to any literary institution now established, or which may hereafter be established, unless, at the time of making such endowment, the 20 Legislature of the State shall have the right to grant any 22 further powers to alter, limit or restrain any of the powers vested in any such literary institution, as shall be judged necessary to promote the best interests thereof. The Legislature 24 shall ensure that funding is available to provide equal 26 educational opportunities to students at public schools throughout the State.

; and be it further

- 32 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date. Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall 34 notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding 36 a statewide election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following the passage of 38 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 require that the Legislature ensure that funding is available to provide equal educational opportunities to students at public schools throughout the State?"
- 46 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a 48 cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,

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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.

## SUMMARY

This resolution amends the Constitution of Maine to require that the Legislature ensure that funding is available to provide equal educational opportunities to students at public schools throughout the State.

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