# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

### **FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999**

Legislative Document

No. 1266

S.P. 429

In Senate, February 16, 1999

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Promote Historic and Scenic Preservation.

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator AMERO of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Senator ABROMSON of Cumberland, Representative: BRENNAN of Portland. 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. IX, §8, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Historic and scenic preservation. The Legislature shall have the power to provide that municipalities may reduce taxes on real property if the property owner agrees to maintain the property in accordance with criteria adopted by the governing legislative body of the municipality to maintain the historic integrity of important structures or to provide scenic view easements of significant vistas.

; 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:

"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to allow for reduced property taxes on property that will be maintained for historic preservation or for scenic views of significant vistas?"

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**

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This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to enact a law allowing municipalities to reduce property taxes on property dedicated to historic preservation or preservation of scenic easements.