

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 632

H.P. 492

House of Representatives, February 8, 2001

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow Municipalities the Option of Exempting Personal Property from Taxation if No Property Owner in the Municipality Owns More than 2% of the Taxable Property in the Municipality.

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative BROOKS of Winterport.
Cosponsored by Representatives: COWGER of Hallowell, MURPHY of Berwick, PERKINS of Penobscot, TRACY of Rome, TRAHAN of Waldoboro, WATERHOUSE of Bridgton, WHEELER of Eliot.

2 **Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two thirds of each
branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following
amendment to the Constitution of Maine be proposed:

4 **Constitution, Art. IX, §8, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

6 6. Personal property. A municipality may by ordinance
8 exempt all personal property from taxation within the
municipality if no taxpayer in the municipality owns property
10 with a just value of more than 2% of the just value of all
taxable property in the municipality.

12 ; and be it further

14 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective**
16 **date. Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall
notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and
18 plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding
a statewide election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday
20 following the first Monday of November following the passage of
this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment
22 proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

24 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to allow
municipalities to exempt all personal property from taxation
26 if no taxpayer in the municipality owns property with a just
value of more than 2% of the just value of all taxable
28 property in the municipality?"

30 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a
32 cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below
the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,
34 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings
and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as
36 votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review
the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes
38 are cast in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim
that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the
40 Constitution on the date of the proclamation; and be it further

42 **Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the
Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town
44 and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this resolution
necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.
46

SUMMARY

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4 This constitutional resolution allows municipalities to
6 exempt all personal property in the municipality from property
tax if no taxpayer owns property with a just value of more than
2% of the just value of all taxable property in the municipality.