

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1340

H.P. 1003

House of Representatives, March 5, 2001

An Act to Hold an Advisory Referendum on Term Limits.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative TUTTLE of Sanford.
Cosponsored by Senator DOUGLASS of Androscoggin and
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, BLANCHETTE of Bangor, BLISS of South Portland,
CHIZMAR of Lisbon, HALL of Bristol, HUTTON of Bowdoinham, MITCHELL of
Vassalboro, O'BRIEN of Lewiston.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **PART A**

6 **Sec. A-1. Advisory referendum on the opinion of citizens of the State.** The Secretary of State shall hold an advisory referendum, at a statewide election in the month of November following passage of this Act, to determine the sentiment of the people on whether to amend or repeal the existing law limiting the number of consecutive terms that may be held by members of the Legislature.

12 **Sec. A-2. Advisory referendum procedure; submission at statewide election.** This advisory referendum must be submitted to the legal voters of the State of Maine a statewide election held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following passage of this Act. 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, to give their opinion on these questions by voting on the following:

22 Question A: "Do you favor amending the state law to
24 increase from 4 to 6 the number of consecutive terms that
26 may be served by a member of the State Legislature?"

28 Question B: "Do you favor repealing the state law that
30 limits to 4 the number of consecutive terms that may be
served by a member of the State Legislature?"

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

44 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each
46 city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this
Act necessary to carry out the purpose of this advisory
48 referendum.

50 **PART B**

2 **Sec. B-1. Report out a bill.** Based on the results of the vote
taken pursuant to Part A of this Act, the Joint Standing
4 Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs shall report out a bill
to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature to
6 implement the perceived will of the people.

8

SUMMARY

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This bill directs the Secretary of State to hold an advisory
12 referendum at a statewide election to determine whether the
voters of the State favor amending or repealing the existing
14 state law limiting the terms of Legislators.