

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1410

S.P. 430

In Senate, March 5, 2001

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
to Repeal Constraints on the Property Tax and to Make the State Jointly
Responsible with Municipalities for Equity in Education.**

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLS of Somerset.

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

6 **Constitution, Art. IV, Part Third, §23** is repealed.

8 ; and be it further

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

12 **Section 1. State and towns to support public schools of**
uniform and high-quality; duty of Legislature. A Because a
14 general diffusion of the advantages of education being is
essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the
16 people; ~~to promote this important object, the Legislature are~~ is
both authorized, ~~and it shall be their duty and obligated~~ to
18 require, ~~the several towns to make that;~~ suitable provision, ~~at~~
~~their own expense, for the support and maintenance of public~~
20 ~~schools, and it be made for the support and maintenance of public~~
schools at the expense of the State and its municipalities; each
child have reasonable access to suitable educational
22 opportunities and to programs of uniformly high quality; and the
burden of support for public schools be equitably allocated among
24 regions, citizens and businesses of the State. It shall further
be their duty to encourage and suitably endow, from time to time,
26 as the circumstances of the people may authorize, all academies,
colleges and seminaries of learning within the State; provided,
28 that no donation, grant or endowment shall at any time be made by
the Legislature to any literary institution now established, or
30 which may hereafter be established, unless, at the time of making
such endowment, the Legislature of the State shall have the right
32 to grant any further powers to alter, limit or restrain any of
the powers vested in any such literary institution, as shall be
34 judged necessary to promote the best interests thereof.

36 ; and be it further

38 **Constitution, Art. IX, §8,** as enacted by CR 1999, c. 2, is
repealed.

40 ; and be it further

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

following question:

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"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to repeal constraints on the property tax and to make the State jointly responsible with municipalities for providing reasonable access to suitable, high-quality educational opportunities?"

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 seeks to repeal provisions governing property taxes and to make the State share in the responsibilities to provide reasonable access to suitable, high-quality educational opportunities.