

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1678

H.P. 1231

House of Representatives, March 15, 2001

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
to Establish the Legislative Compensation Commission.**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Speaker SAXL of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook and
Representatives: MURPHY of Berwick, TUTTLE of Sanford.

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, §24** is enacted to read:

6 **Section 24. Legislative Compensation Commission;**
8 **establishment of legislative compensation.**

10 **1. Legislative Compensation Commission; membership.** The
Legislative Compensation Commission, referred to in this section
12 as the "commission," is established and consists of 5 members
appointed by the Governor. Of those 5 members, one must be a
14 member of one of the 2 major political parties and one must be a
member of the other major political party.

16 A person who is, at the time the appointments are made, a
18 Legislator, lobbyist or lobbyist employer may not be appointed to
the commission.

20 **2. Terms.** Each member must be appointed for a term of 4
22 years, except that of the 5 initial appointed members 2 must be
appointed for a term of 4 years, one must be appointed for a term
24 of 3 years, one must be appointed for a term of 2 years and one
must be appointed for a term of one year.

26 **3. Compensation.** The members of the commission are
28 entitled to compensation in an amount equal to the legislative
per diem.

30 **4. Duties of commission.** The commission shall issue its
32 first report no later than November 30, 2002. No later than
November 30th of every even-numbered year thereafter, the
34 commission shall issue a report. The report must contain:

36 **A. A description of the commission's activities;**

38 **B. The recommendations of the commission for all regular**
and special sessions of the next Legislature concerning
40 **compensation of Legislators and representatives of the**
Indian tribes, including, but not limited to, all payments
42 **for: salaries, meals, housing, travel, mileage and all**
other expenses and allowances; additional service as
44 **President of the Senate, as Speaker of the House or as a**
member of leadership; and constituent services;

46 **C. The reasons for its recommendations; and**

48 **D. Any other material and recommendations that commission**
50 **members may wish to submit.**

2 that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the
Constitution on the date of the proclamation; and be it further

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

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SUMMARY

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This constitutional resolution establishes a Legislative
14 Compensation Commission to review the current levels of
compensation provided to Maine Legislators. It provides that the
5 members of the commission be appointed by the Governor, with at
16 least one from each of the 2 major political parties. It
specifies that no member of the commission may be a Legislator,
18 lobbyist or lobbyist employer at the time of the appointment.
The commission's recommendations automatically take effect for
20 the next legislative session unless the Legislature enacts
legislation specifically overriding the commission's
22 recommendations.