

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 509

H.P. 394

House of Representatives, February 6, 2003

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine To Provide That the State Fund 100 Percent of Education for
Students from Kindergarten to Postsecondary School**

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative GOODWIN of Pembroke.

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

8 **Section 1. Legislature shall require towns to support**
public schools; **duty of Legislature.** A general diffusion of the
10 advantages of education being essential to the preservation of
the rights and liberties of the people; to promote this important
12 object, the Legislature are authorized, and it shall be their
duty to require, the several towns to make suitable provision, ~~at~~
~~their own expense,~~ for the support and maintenance of public
14 schools; and it shall further be their duty to encourage and
suitably endow, from time to time, as the circumstances of the
16 people may authorize, all academies, colleges and seminaries of
learning within the State; provided, that no donation, grant or
18 endowment shall at any time be made by the Legislature to any
literary institution now established, or which may hereafter be
20 established, unless, at the time of making such endowment, the
Legislature of the State shall have the right to grant any
22 further powers to alter, limit or restrain any of the powers
vested in any such literary institution, as shall be judged
24 necessary to promote the best interests thereof.

26 **Constitution, Art. VIII, Part First, §1-A** is enacted to read:

28 **Section 1-A. State to fully fund public education.** The
Legislature by proper enactment shall ensure full state funding
30 of public education, from kindergarten to postsecondary school.

32 ; and be it further

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

42 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require
44 that the State provide full funding of public education from
kindergarten to postsecondary school?"

46 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
48 vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a
cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below

2 the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,
counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings
4 and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as
votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review
6 the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes
are cast in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim
8 that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the
Constitution on the date of the proclamation; and be it further

10 **Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the
Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town
12 and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this resolution
necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.
14

16 **SUMMARY**

18 This constitutional resolution requires that the State
20 provide full funding of public education from kindergarten to
postsecondary school.