MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 916

H.P. 673

House of Representatives, February 20, 2003

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Limit Present-home Property Taxes

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

Millient M. Macfarland MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative DAVIS of Falmouth.
Cosponsored by Senator HATCH of Somerset and
Representatives: CRESSEY of Baldwin, GAGNE-FRIEL of Buckfield, HONEY of Boothbay,
JOY of Crystal, ROSEN of Bucksport, SHERMAN of Hodgdon, SHIELDS of Auburn.

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

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

6. Annual cap on homes resided in by same owner. The Legislature shall limit tax rates imposed by municipalities on real property for homes in which the same person resides year to year. Municipalities may annually increase the tax rates imposed on those properties in an amount not to exceed the rate of inflation for the prior year.

: and be it further

Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date. Resolved: That 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, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to allow for an annual cap, based on the rate of inflation for the prior year, on property taxes for property owned and resided in by the same owner?"

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 of Maine 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 purposes of this referendum.

SUMMARY

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This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require the Legislature to enact a law that prohibits municipalities from increasing property taxes by more than the rate of inflation for the prior year if the property is owned and resided in by the same owner.