

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 938

H.P. 695

House of Representatives, February 25, 2003

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine To Change the Assessment of Lands Used for Long-term
Ownership**

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERCY of Phippsburg.
Cosponsored by Senator MAYO of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, JACKSON of Fort Kent, KAELIN of Winterport,
LERMAN of Augusta, MILLS of Cornville, PARADIS of Frenchville, PINGREE of North
Haven, Senator: HATCH of Somerset.

2 amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the
following question:

4 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to allow
6 the Legislature to provide for an assessment of lands used
8 for long-term ownership based on current use and to impose a
penalty for change to higher use, which would be a transfer
outside of the immediate family or by other than a
designated bequest?"

10 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
12 vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a
cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below
14 the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,
counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings
16 and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as
votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review
18 the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes
are cast in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim
20 that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the
Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it
22 further

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

28
30 **SUMMARY**

32 This constitutional resolution proposes to add another
category of land, that is land used for long-term ownership, or
34 generational family ownership, that may be assessed based on
current use and against which a penalty may be imposed if it is
36 transferred outside of the immediate family or by other than a
designated bequest.