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H.P. 827

House of Representatives, March 4, 2003

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Allow Property Tax Reductions for Seniors

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. Mac Jailand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative LEMOINE of Old Orchard Beach. Cosponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Newfield and Senator: STANLEY of Penobscot. **Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two thirds of each 2 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. Property taxes based on 5-year average valuation. The
⁸ Legislature may allow municipalities to impose property taxes on residential property owned by residents at least 62 years of age
¹⁰ based upon the average municipally assessed value of the property over the 5 years prior to the assessment.

; 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 a municipality to impose property taxes based upon the average municipally assessed value of the home for the 5 years prior to the assessment for homes owned by residents who are at least 62 years of age?"

30 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a 32 cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, 34 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as 36 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 38 that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it 40 further

44 Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved: That the 44 and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this resolution 46 necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

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SUMMARY

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow municipalities to impose property taxes on homes based on the average municipally assessed value of the home for the 5 years prior to the assessment for homes owned by residents who are at least 62 years of age.

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