

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1330

S.P. 432

In Senate, March 12, 2003

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine To Provide Property Tax Relief for Maine Seniors**

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BLAIS of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Newfield and
Senator: GILMAN of Cumberland, Representatives: JACKSON of Fort Kent, TREADWELL
of Carmel.

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, §8, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

6 **6. Property taxes based on median income.** The Legislature
8 may allow municipalities to impose property taxes on residential
property owned by a resident whose income is at or below the
10 median income of Maine and who is at least 65 years of age at a
level equal to the property taxes assessed on that person's
12 primary residence at the time the person attained 65 years of age.

14 ; and be it further

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

24 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to allow a
26 municipality to impose property taxes on residential
property owned by a resident whose income is at or below the
28 median income for Maine and who is at least 65 years of age
at a level equal to the property taxes assessed on that
30 person's primary residence at the time the person attained
65 years of age?"

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

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

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SUMMARY

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6 This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine
8 to allow municipalities to impose property taxes on a home owned
10 by a resident whose income is at or below the median income for
Maine and who is at least 65 years of age at a level equal to the
property taxes assessed on that person's primary residence at the
time the person attained 65 years of age.