



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 939

H.P. 658

House of Representatives, February 22, 2005

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Preserve the Integrity of the Citizen-initiated Petition Process

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. Mac Failand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative BOWLES of Sanford. Cosponsored by Senator WESTON of Waldo and Representatives: GERZOFSKY of Brunswick, MILLS of Farmington, SAVIELLO of Wilton, SHERMAN of Hodgdon, Senators: PLOWMAN of Penobscot, WOODCOCK of Franklin.

Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two thirds of each 2 branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of Maine be proposed: 4 Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. Third, §18, sub-§1-A is enacted to read: 6 1-A. Initiative that proposes expenditure of state 8 revenues. An initiative proposed to the Legislature under this section that proposes an expenditure of state revenues must: 10 A. Include a revenue source sufficient to fund the 12 expenditure; 14 B. Establish a new fund designed to sufficiently finance the expenditure; or 16 Identify reductions in existing state programs с. sufficient to offset the expenditure. 18 20 ; and be it further Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective 22 date. Resolved: That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and 24 plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday 26 following the first Monday of November following the passage of 28 this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question: 30 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require that citizen initiatives that require state expenditures 32 include either a new revenue source to fund the expenditure or identify reductions in existing state programs sufficient 34 to offset the new expenditure?" 36 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a 38 cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, 40 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as 42 votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes 44 are cast in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the 46

Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it 2 further

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

This resolution proposes amending the Constitution of Maine to require that citizen initiatives that require state expenditures include either a new revenue source to fund the expenditure or identify reductions in existing state programs sufficient to offset the new expenditure.

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