MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 965

H.P. 675

House of Representatives, February 24, 2005

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide a \$5,000 Property Tax Exemption to Veterans, Regardless of Home Value

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

Millient M. Macfarland MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative PINEAU of Jay.

Cosponsored by Senator WOODCOCK of Franklin and

Representatives: BOWLES of Sanford, CUMMINGS of Portland, DUPLESSIE of Westbrook,
RICHARDSON of Greenville, TARDY of Newport, WHEELER of Kittery, Senators: DAVIS
of Piscataquis, GAGNON of Kennebec.

Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two thirds οf 2 the Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of Maine be proposed: Constitution, Art. IX, §8, sub-§6 is enacted to read: 6 6. Taxation of estate of veterans. Beginning with the property tax year 2006, the first \$5,000 of taxable value of real estate owned by a veteran who served in the Armed Forces of the 10 United States is exempt from taxation. 12 ; and be it further 14 Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective 16 date. Resolved: That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and 18 plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday 20 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: 2.2 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to exempt 24 from property taxes the first \$5,000 of taxable value of the real estate owned by a veteran of the Armed Forces of the 2.6

United States?"

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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.

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SUMMARY

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Current law provides a property tax exemption in the amount of \$5,000 to veterans; the actual amount of the exemption is determined by multiplying the amount of the exemption by the ratio of current just value of the property.

This resolution amends the Constitution of Maine to provide, beginning with the property tax year 2006, a property tax exemption for the first \$5,000 of taxable value of real estate owned by a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, regardless of the ratio of current just value upon which the local assessed value is based.

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