

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006

Legislative Document

No. 1912

H.P. 1353

House of Representatives, January 4, 2006

RESOLUTION, Amending the Constitution of Maine To Lower the Age of Eligibility for Election to the House of Representatives

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CAIN of Orono.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, CUMMINGS of Portland,
McFADDEN of Dennysville, PINGREE of North Haven, Senator: BARTLETT of
Cumberland.

2 **Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two thirds of each
3 branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following
4 amendment to the Constitution of Maine be proposed:

5 **Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. First, §4** is amended to read:

6 **Section 4. Qualifications; residency requirement.** No
7 person shall be a member of the House of Representatives, unless
8 the person shall, at the commencement of the period for which the
9 person is elected, have been 5 years a citizen of the United
10 States, have arrived at the age of ~~21~~ 18 years, have been a
11 resident in this State one year; and for the 3 months next
12 preceding the time of this person's election shall have been,
13 and, during the period for which elected, shall continue to be a
14 resident in the district which that person represents.
15

16 No person may be a candidate for election as a member of the
17 House of Representatives unless, at the time of the nomination
18 for placement on a primary, general or special election ballot,
19 that person is a resident in the district which the candidate
20 seeks to represent.
21

22 ; and be it further

23 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective**
24 **date. Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall
25 notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and
26 plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding
27 a general election, at the next general election in the month of
28 November following passage of this resolution, to vote upon the
29 ratification of the amendment proposed in this resolution by
30 voting upon the following question:
31

32 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to decrease
33 from 21 years of age to 18 years of age the minimum age for
34 election to the Maine House of Representatives?"
35

36 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
37 vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a
38 cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below
39 the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,
40 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings
41 and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as
42 votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review
43 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
45 that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the
46 Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it
47 further
48

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

6

SUMMARY

8 This resolution provides for amending the Constitution of
Maine to decrease from 21 years of age to 18 years of age the
10 minimum age for election to the Maine House of Representatives.