

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 664

H.P. 513

House of Representatives, February 8, 2007

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**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine To Require That Members of the House and Senate Be  
Assigned Seats That Correlate with Each Member's District for the  
Purpose of Enhancing Communications and Reducing the  
Perception of Partisan Gridlock**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BURNS of Berwick.  
Cosponsored by Senator BARTLETT of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BRAUTIGAM of Falmouth, CANAVAN of Waterville, DRISCOLL of  
Westbrook, GROSE of Woolwich, HAYES of Buckfield, MAKAS of Lewiston, MAZUREK  
of Rockland, WALCOTT of Lewiston.

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

4       **Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. First, §2** is amended to read:

5       **Section 2. Number of Representatives; biennial terms; division of the State into**  
6 **districts for House of Representatives.** The House of Representatives shall consist of  
7 151 members, to be elected by the qualified electors, and hold their office 2 years from  
8 the day next preceding the first Wednesday in December following the general election.  
9 The Legislature which convenes in 1983 and every 10th year thereafter shall cause the  
10 State to be divided into districts for the choice of one Representative for each district.  
11 The number of Representatives shall be divided into the number of inhabitants of the  
12 State exclusive of foreigners not naturalized according to the latest Federal Decennial  
13 Census or a State Census previously ordered by the Legislature to coincide with the  
14 Federal Decennial Census, to determine a mean population figure for each Representative  
15 District. Each Representative District shall be formed of contiguous and compact  
16 territory and shall cross political subdivision lines the least number of times necessary to  
17 establish as nearly as practicable equally populated districts. Whenever the population of  
18 a municipality entitles it to more than one district, all whole districts shall be drawn  
19 within municipal boundaries. Any population remainder within the municipality shall be  
20 included in a district with contiguous territory and shall be kept intact.

21 A member must be assigned a seat that correlates with that member's district.

22       **Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. Second, §1** is amended to read:

23       **Section 1. Number of Senators.** The Senate shall consist of an odd number of  
24 Senators, not less than 31 nor more than 35, elected at the same time and for the same  
25 term as Representatives by the qualified electors of the districts into which the State shall  
26 be from time to time divided.

27 A member must be assigned a seat that correlates with that member's district.

28 ; and be it further

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

35       “Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require that members of the  
36 Senate and the House of Representatives be assigned seats that correlate with each  
37 member's district for the purpose of enhancing communications and reducing the  
38 perception of partisan gridlock?”

39       The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question  
40 and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding

1 square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and  
2 declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of  
3 State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall  
4 review the returns. If it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the  
5 amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment  
6 becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it  
7 further

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

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This constitutional resolution requires that members of the Senate and the House of  
13 Representatives be assigned seats that correlate with each member's district.