

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1718

H.P. 1201

House of Representatives, March 23, 2007

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Reduce the Size of the Legislature

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BABBIDGE of Kennebunk.
Cosponsored by Senator SULLIVAN of York and
Representatives: BEAULIEU of Auburn, CANAVAN of Waterville, CONNOR of Kennebunk,
JOY of Crystal.

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

4 **Constitution, Art. IV, Part 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, except that, for the Legislature that convenes in 2015 and thereafter, the
8 House of Representatives shall consist of 132 members, to be elected by the qualified
9 electors, and hold their office 2 years from the day next preceding the first Wednesday in
10 December following the general election. The Legislature which convenes in ~~1983~~ 2013
11 and every 10th year thereafter shall cause the State to be divided into districts for the
12 choice of one Representative for each district. The number of Representatives shall be
13 divided into the number of inhabitants of the State exclusive of foreigners not naturalized
14 according to the latest Federal Decennial Census or a State Census previously ordered by
15 the Legislature to coincide with the Federal Decennial Census, to determine a mean
16 population figure for each Representative District. Each Representative District shall be
17 formed of contiguous and compact territory and shall cross political subdivision lines the
18 least number of times necessary to establish as nearly as practicable equally populated
19 districts. Whenever the population of a municipality entitles it to more than one district,
20 all whole districts shall be drawn within municipal boundaries. Any population
21 remainder within the municipality shall be included in a district with contiguous territory
22 and shall be kept intact.

23 **Constitution, Art. IV, Part Second, §1** is amended to read:

24 **Section 1. Number of Senators.** The Senate shall consist of an odd number of
25 Senators, not less than 31 nor more than 35, except that, for the Legislature that convenes
26 in 2015 and thereafter, the Senate shall consist of 33 members, elected at the same time
27 and for the same term as Representatives by the qualified electors of the districts into
28 which the State shall be from time to time divided.

29 **Constitution, Art. IV, Part Second, §2, first ¶** is amended to read:

30 **Section 2. Submission of reapportionment plan to Secretary of Senate;**
31 **Legislature's action on commission's plan; division of State into Senatorial Districts;**
32 **division by Supreme Judicial Court.** The Legislature which shall convene in the year
33 ~~1983~~ 2013 and every 10th year thereafter shall cause the State to be divided into districts
34 for the choice of a Senator from each district, using the same method as provided in
35 Article IV, Part First, Section 2 for apportionment of Representative Districts. Each
36 Senatorial District must be composed by the combination of 4 Representative Districts.

37 ; and be it further

38 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date.**
39 **Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their
40 respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for
41 holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November

1 following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment
2 proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

3 “Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to reduce the size of the House of
4 Representatives from 151 members to 132 members and to limit the size of the
5 Senate from no more than 35 members to 33 members, effective in the year 2015?”

6 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question
7 and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding
8 square below the word “Yes” or “No.” The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and
9 declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of
10 State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall
11 review the returns. If it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the
12 amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment
13 becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it
14 further

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

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to reduce the size of the House
20 of Representatives from 151 members to 132 members and the size of the Senate from no
21 more than 35 members to 33 members. The reduction in the size of each legislative body
22 takes effect in 2015.