

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Date: 6-10-09

(Filing No. S-322)

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 123, L.D. 144, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Reduce the Size of the Legislature"

Amend the amendment by striking out all of the first and 2nd indented paragraphs after the title (page 1, lines 12 to 15 in amendment) and inserting the following:

'Amend the resolution by striking out all of the 2nd to 7th indented paragraphs and inserting the following:

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

Section 2. Number of Representatives; biennial terms; division of the State into districts for House of Representatives. The House of Representatives shall consist of 151 members, except that, for the Legislature that convenes in 2015 and thereafter, the House of Representatives shall consist of 131, 141 or 151 members, the specific number to be determined by the most recent Legislative Apportionment Commission, to be elected by the qualified electors, and hold their office 2 years from the day next preceding the first Wednesday in December following the general election. The Legislature which convenes in 1983 and every 10th year thereafter shall cause the State to be divided into districts for the choice of one Representative for each district. The number of Representatives shall be divided into the number of inhabitants of the State exclusive of foreigners not naturalized according to the latest Federal Decennial Census or a State Census previously ordered by the Legislature to coincide with the Federal Decennial Census, to determine a mean population figure for each Representative District. Each Representative District shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory and shall cross political subdivision lines the least number of times necessary to establish as nearly as practicable equally populated districts. Whenever the population of a municipality entitles it to more than one district, all whole districts shall be drawn within municipal boundaries. Any population remainder within the municipality shall be included in a district with contiguous territory and shall be kept intact.'

Amend the amendment by striking out all of the last 2 lines before the summary (page 1, lines 18 and 19 in amendment) and inserting the following:

'"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to alter the size of the House of Representatives beginning in 2015 from the current 151 members to a number of

R.S.

1 members equal to 131, 141 or 151, the specific number to be determined by the
2 Legislative Apportionment Commission?"

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment proposes altering the size of the House of Representatives beginning
5 in 2015 from the current 151 members to a number of members equal to 131, 141 or 151,
6 the specific number to be determined by the Legislative Apportionment Commission.

7 **SPONSORED BY:** 
8 (Senator DIAMOND)

9 **COUNTY: Cumberland**

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 144

LR 75(06)

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

Fiscal Note for Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A"

Sponsor: Sen. Diamond of Cumberland

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential reduction in future biennium savings - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This amendment makes any reduction in the size of the House of Representatives contingent not only on the referendum vote, but also on the decision of the next apportionment commission and the 126th Legislature. It also eliminates the shift in the timing of the costs of the apportionment commission by delaying the effective date, but delays any potential future savings to fiscal year 2014-15.

If approved by the voters, the amount of any future savings will depend on the recommendations of the next apportionment commission and the 126th Legislature. If the size of the House is reduced to the lowest number of 131, then the estimated savings to the Legislature are approximately \$880,000 for a 1st Regular and \$720,000 for a 2nd Regular Session. The Maine Clean Elections Fund could also realize savings from a reduction in the number of candidates. Again, assuming the lowest number of 131, the maximum potential savings to the Maine Clean Elections Fund would be \$95,000 in fiscal year 2013-14.