

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 144

H.P. 123

House of Representatives, January 15, 2009

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

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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 FLOOD of Winthrop.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BICKFORD of Auburn, HINCK of Portland, JOHNSON of  
Greenville, VAN WIE of New Gloucester and Representatives: HAMPER of Oxford,  
PRESCOTT of Topsham.



1 of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by  
2 law for holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of  
3 November 2010 following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification  
4 of the amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

5 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to reduce the size of the  
6 House of Representatives from 151 members to 115 members and to reduce the  
7 size of the Senate from no more than 35 members to no more than 31 members,  
8 effective in the year 2013?"

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

18 **Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the Secretary of  
19 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.

#### 20 SUMMARY

21 This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to reduce the size of the  
22 House of Representatives from 151 members to 115 members and the size of the  
23 Senate from no more than 35 members to no more than 31 members. Under the  
24 resolution, the proposal would be presented to the voters for their approval in  
25 November 2010, and after voter approval the Legislature that convenes in 2011  
26 would submit a reapportionment plan to implement the reduction in the size of the  
27 Legislature. The reduction in the size of each legislative body takes effect in 2013.