

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 838

H.P. 574

House of Representatives, March 3, 2009

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine To Elect 2 Senators from Each County and To Increase the
Senate Term from 2 to 4 Years**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative JOY of Crystal.
Cosponsored by Senator SHERMAN of Aroostook and
Representatives: BURNS of Whiting, CLARK of Millinocket, DAVIS of Sangerville, HAYES
of Buckfield, McFADDEN of Dennysville, SCHATZ of Blue Hill, Senators: RAYE of
Washington, TRAHAN of Lincoln.

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. II, §4** is amended to read:

5 **Section 4. Time of state election; absentee voting.** The election of Senators
6 and Representatives shall be on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November
7 biennially ~~forever~~ except as provided in this Section. Beginning with the general
8 election held in 2010, the election of Senators and the election of Governor shall be
9 on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November every 4 years, except that
10 the term of a Senator from an odd-numbered legislative district remains a 2-year term
11 until 2012, after which time the election of all Senators must be held every 4 years.
12 The Legislature under proper enactment shall authorize and provide for voting by
13 citizens of the State absent therefrom in the Armed Forces of the United States or of
14 this State and for voting by other citizens absent or physically incapacitated for
15 reasons deemed sufficient.

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

17 **Section 1. Number of Senators.** The Senate shall consist of ~~an odd number of~~
18 32 Senators, ~~not less than 31 nor more than 35,~~ elected at the same time and for the
19 ~~same term as Representatives as provided in Article II, Section 4~~ by the qualified
20 electors of the districts into which the State shall be from time to time divided.

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

22 **Section 2. Submission of reapportionment plan to Secretary of Senate;**
23 **Legislature's action on commission's plan; division of State into Senatorial**
24 **Districts; division by Supreme Judicial Court.** The Legislature which shall
25 convene in the year 1983 and every tenth year thereafter 2013 shall cause reapportion
26 the State to be divided into districts for the choice of a Senator from each district,
27 using the same method as provided in Article IV, Part First, Section 2 for
28 apportionment of Representative Districts so that the Senate districts coincide with
29 the counties of the State. The voters of each county shall vote for 2 Senators.

30 ; and be it further

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

37 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to reduce the size of the
38 Senate from no more than 35 members to 32 members and increase the Senate
39 term from 2 years to 4 years, effective in the year 2010, and to reapportion
40 Senatorial Districts to coincide with the counties of the State?"

