

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 840

H.P. 576

House of Representatives, March 3, 2009

### RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Control Property Tax Increases

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Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative McKANE of Newcastle.  
Cosponsored by Senator NASS of York and  
Representatives: CURTIS of Madison, DAVIS of Sangerville, FLETCHER of Winslow, JOY  
of Crystal, KNIGHT of Livermore Falls, PRESCOTT of Topsham, RICHARDSON of Warren,  
Senator: 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. IX, §8, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

5           **6. Limit on valuation increases.** Notwithstanding the other provisions of this  
6 section, the valuation of property subject to taxation may not be increased by more  
7 than the change since the last valuation in a standard measure of consumer price  
8 inflation to be determined by the Legislature. Taxes on new property, improvements  
9 to property and property that changes ownership must be based on just value in the  
10 first year of assessment.

11 ; and be it further

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

18           "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to limit increases in the  
19 valuation of property to the amount of inflation except that new property,  
20 improvements to property and property that changes ownership must be valued at  
21 just value in the first year of assessment?"

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

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

#### 34           SUMMARY

35           This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to limit increases in  
36 the valuation of property to the amount of inflation except that new property,  
37 improvements to property and property that changes ownership must be valued at just  
38 value in the first year of assessment.

39