MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 922

S.P. 344

In Senate, March 10, 2009

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require a Supermajority Approval of the Legislature for Tax Increases

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator RECTOR of Knox.

Cosponsored by Representative WEAVER of York and
Senators: COURTNEY of York, HASTINGS of Oxford, ROSEN of Hancock, SMITH of
Piscataquis, TRAHAN of Lincoln, WESTON of Waldo, Representative: FITTS of Pittsfield.

Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two thirds of each branch of the 1 Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of Maine be 2 proposed: 3 Constitution, Art. IX, §24 is enacted to read: 4 5 Section 24. Tax increases. Any increases in revenue by the enactment of a new tax or fee, increase or expansion of an existing tax or fee or repeal or reduction of a 6 benefit or eligibility for a tax credit, exemption or refund may not be approved except 7 by the 2/3 vote of both Houses of the Legislature. 8 ; and be it further 9 Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective 10 date. Resolved: That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants 11 of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by 12 law for holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of 13 November following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the 14 amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question: 15 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require a 2/3 vote of both 16 Houses of the Legislature to approve an increase in state revenue?" 17 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this 18 question and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the 19 corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, 20 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns 21 22 made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns. If it appears that a majority of 23 the legal votes are cast in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that 24 fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on 25 the date of the proclamation; and be it further 26 Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved: That the Secretary of 27 State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns 28 and copies of this resolution necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum. 29

SUMMARY

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require a 2/3 vote of both Houses of the Legislature to approve an increase in state revenue.

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