

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 780

H.P. 587

House of Representatives, March 1, 2011

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine To Limit the Number of Terms Served in Total**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative DOW of Waldoboro.

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. IV, Pt. First, §2** is amended to read:

5 **Section 2. Number of Representatives; terms; division of the State into**
 6 **districts for House of Representatives.** The House of Representatives shall consist
 7 of 151 members, to be elected by the qualified electors, and hold their office 2 years from
 8 the day next preceding the first Wednesday in December following the general election.
 9 A person may not serve more than 8 terms in total in the House of Representatives and
 10 the Senate. The Legislature which convenes in 1983 and every 10th year thereafter shall
 11 cause the State to be divided into districts for the choice of one Representative for each
 12 district. The number of Representatives shall be divided into the number of inhabitants of
 13 the State exclusive of foreigners not naturalized according to the latest Federal Decennial
 14 Census or a State Census previously ordered by the Legislature to coincide with the
 15 Federal Decennial Census, to determine a mean population figure for each Representative
 16 District. Each Representative District shall be formed of contiguous and compact
 17 territory and shall cross political subdivision lines the least number of times necessary to
 18 establish as nearly as practicable equally populated districts. Whenever the population of
 19 a municipality entitles it to more than one district, all whole districts shall be drawn
 20 within municipal boundaries. Any population remainder within the municipality shall be
 21 included in a district with contiguous territory and shall be kept intact.

22 ; and be it further

23 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date.**

24 **Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their
 25 respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for
 26 holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November
 27 following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment
 28 proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

29 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to limit the number of terms of
 30 office for State Senators and members of the House of Representatives to no more
 31 than 8 terms in total?"

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

