MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 299

H.P. 208

House of Representatives, February 7, 2013

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require the State Share of Education Funding To Be at Least Fifty-five Percent of the Total Cost and One Hundred Percent of the Cost of Special Education

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millient M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative JONES of Freedom. Cosponsored by Representatives: CHENETTE of Saco, CHIPMAN of Portland, EVANGELOS of Friendship, GILBERT of Jay, HICKMAN of Winthrop, KUSIAK of Fairfield, NADEAU of Winslow, NOON of Sanford. **Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two thirds of each branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of Maine be proposed:

Constitution, Art. VIII, Pt. First, §3 is enacted to read:

Section 3. State share of education costs. The Legislature shall appropriate sufficient state funds to cover at least 55% of the total state and local cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 and 100% of the state and local cost of providing all special education services mandated under federal and state law, rule or regulation.

; and be it further

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

"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require the Legislature to provide sufficient state funds to cover at least 55% of the total state and local cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 and 100% of the state and local cost of special education?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns 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 the legal votes are cast in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it further

Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved: That the Secretary of 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.

33 SUMMARY

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require the Legislature to appropriate sufficient state funds to cover at least 55% of the total state and local cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 and 100% of the state and local costs of special education as approved pursuant to citizen-initiated legislation in 2004.