MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib



Reproduced from electronic originals (may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 703

H.P. 479

House of Representatives, March 5, 2015

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Protect the People's Right To Hunt, Fish and Harvest Wildlife

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WARD of Dedham.
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and
Representatives: HANINGTON of Lincoln, HICKMAN of Winthrop, LOCKMAN of
Amherst, LYFORD of Eddington, MALABY of Hancock, PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, REED of
Carmel, SAWICKI of Auburn.

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. IX, §26 is enacted to read:

Section 26. Personal right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife; limitations. Every citizen has the personal right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife, subject only to statutes enacted by the Legislature and to rules adopted by the state agency designated to promote wildlife conservation and management and to preserve the future of hunting and fishing. Public hunting, fishing and harvesting wildlife are a preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife. This section may not be construed to modify any provision of law relating to trespass or property rights.

; 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

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 provide that the citizens of Maine have the personal right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife, subject to laws and rules that promote wildlife conservation and preserve the future of hunting and fishing, and to provide that public hunting, fishing and harvesting wildlife are a preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife?"

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.

37 SUMMARY

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to provide that the citizens of Maine have the personal right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife, subject to laws and rules that promote wildlife conservation and preserve the future of hunting and

- fishing, and to provide that public hunting, fishing and harvesting wildlife are a preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife. 1
- 2