MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 783

H.P. 532

House of Representatives, March 10, 2015

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to Food

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HICKMAN of Winthrop.

Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and

Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, BUCKLAND of Farmington, CHIPMAN of Portland, DUNPHY of Old Town, PETERSON of Rumford, WARD of Dedham, WARREN of

Hallowell, Senator: BRAKEY of Androscoggin.

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. I, §25 is enacted to read: 5 Section 25. Right to food. Every individual has a natural and unalienable right to food and to acquire food for that individual's own nourishment and sustenance by 6 hunting, gathering, foraging, farming, fishing or gardening or by barter, trade or purchase 7 from sources of that individual's own choosing, and every individual is fully responsible 8 9 for the exercise of this right, which may not be infringed. 10 : and be it further Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date. 11 **Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their 12 13 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 14 following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment 15 proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question: 16 17 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to declare that every 18 individual has a natural and unalienable right to food?" 19 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question 20 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 21 declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of 22 23 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 24 25 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 26 27 further 28 Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved: That the Secretary of State 29 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. 30 **SUMMARY** 31 32 This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that every individual

has a natural and unalienable right to food.

33