

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 252

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S.P. 64

In Senate, January 22, 2019

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine To Prohibit New or Increased Fees or Taxes by Means of  
Direct Initiatives of Legislation**

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Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.  
Cosponsored by Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford and  
Senator: DOW of Lincoln, Representatives: BICKFORD of Auburn, STEWART of Presque  
Isle.

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. Third, §18, sub-§1** is amended to read:

5 **Section 1. Petition procedure.** The electors may propose to the Legislature for  
6 its consideration any bill, resolve or resolution, including bills to amend or repeal  
7 emergency legislation but not an amendment of the State Constitution or a direct  
8 initiative that contains a new or increased tax or fee, by written petition addressed to the  
9 Legislature or to either branch thereof and filed in the office of the Secretary of State by  
10 the hour of 5:00 p.m., on or before the 50th day after the date of convening of the  
11 Legislature in first regular session or on or before the 25th day after the date of convening  
12 of the Legislature in second regular session, except that the written petition may not be  
13 filed in the office of the Secretary of State later than 18 months after the date the petition  
14 form was furnished or approved by the Secretary of State. If the applicable deadline falls  
15 on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the period runs until the hour of 5:00 p.m., of the  
16 next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

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

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

23 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to prohibit the  
24 imposition of any new or increased taxes or fees through the citizen  
25 initiative process?"

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

34 **Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the Secretary of State  
35 shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies  
36 of this resolution necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

## 37 SUMMARY

38 This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to prohibit the  
39 imposition of any new or increased taxes or fees through the direct initiative process.