

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 255

S.P. 67

In Senate, January 22, 2019

**Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
To Require That Signatures on a Direct Initiative of Legislation
Come from Each Congressional District**

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 FARRIN of Somerset.

Cosponsored by Representative STROM of Pittsfield, Representative STETKIS of Canaan and Senators: CARPENTER of Aroostook, LUCHINI of Hancock, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, DILLINGHAM of Oxford, GRIGNON of Athens, HANINGTON of Lincoln.

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-§2** is amended to read:

5 **2. Referral to electors unless enacted by the Legislature without change;**
6 **number of signatures necessary on direct initiative petitions; dating**
7 **signatures on petitions; competing measures.** For any measure thus proposed by
8 electors, the number of signatures of voters from each congressional district shall not be
9 less than 10% of the total vote for Governor cast in that congressional district in the last
10 gubernatorial election preceding the filing of such petition. The date each signature was
11 made shall be written next to the signature on the petition. A signature is not valid if it is
12 dated more than one year prior to the date that the petition was filed in the office of the
13 Secretary of State. The measure thus proposed, unless enacted without change by the
14 Legislature at the session at which it is presented, shall be submitted to the electors
15 together with any amended form, substitute, or recommendation of the Legislature, and in
16 such manner that the people can choose between the competing measures or reject both.
17 When there are competing bills and neither receives a majority of the votes given for or
18 against both, the one receiving the most votes shall at the next statewide election to be
19 held not less than 60 days after the first vote thereon be submitted by itself if it receives
20 more than 1/3 of the votes given for and against both. If the measure initiated is enacted
21 by the Legislature without change, it shall not go to a referendum vote unless in
22 pursuance of a demand made in accordance with the preceding section. The Legislature
23 may order a special election on any measure that is subject to a vote of the people.

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

30 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require signatures
31 on direct initiative petitions from voters from each congressional district
32 of this State?"

33 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question
34 and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding
35 square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and
36 declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of
37 State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall
38 review the returns. If it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the
39 amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment
40 becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on March 1, 2020.

