



## **129th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

**Legislative Document** 

No. 619

H.P. 447

House of Representatives, February 5, 2019

## **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of** Maine Regarding Early Voting

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

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative SCHNECK of Bangor. Cosponsored by Senator LUCHINI of Hancock and Representatives: CARDONE of Bangor, CUDDY of Winterport, DUNPHY of Old Town, FARNSWORTH of Portland, KORNFIELD of Bangor, MARTIN of Sinclair, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, TALBOT ROSS of Portland. 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. II, §4** is amended to read:

5 Section 4. Time of state election; early voting; absentee voting. The election of Senators and Representatives shall be on the Tuesday following the first 6 Monday of November biennially forever and the election of Governor shall be on the 7 8 Tuesday following the first Monday of November every 4 years. The Legislature by proper enactment may authorize a process by which municipalities may conduct early 9 voting by allowing voters to vote in the same manner as on election day during a 10 prescribed period immediately preceding an election. The Legislature under by proper 11 enactment shall authorize and provide for voting by absentee ballot by citizens of the 12 State absent therefrom in the Armed Forces of the United States or of this State and for 13 voting by absentee ballot by other citizens absent or physically incapacitated for any 14 15 reasons deemed sufficient.

16 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date.** 17 **Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their 18 respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for 19 holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November 20 following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment 21 proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to allow the
Legislature to authorize a process by which a municipality may conduct
early voting in the same manner as on election day during a period
immediately preceding an election?"

26 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 27 square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and 28 declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of 29 State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall 30 review the returns. If it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the 31 32 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. 33

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 allow the Legislature to authorize a process by which municipalities may conduct early voting by allowing

- voters to vote in the same manner as on election day during a period immediately preceding an election and to allow absentee voting for any sufficient reason. 1
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