

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 578

S.P. 246

In Senate, February 13, 2023

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine Concerning the Publication of Maine Indian Treaty
Obligations**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary 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 BENNETT of Oxford.

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. X, §7** is amended to read:

5 **Section 7. Original sections 1, ~~and 2, 5,~~ of Article X not to be printed;**
6 ~~**section 5 in full force.**~~ Sections 1, ~~and 2 and 5,~~ of Article X of the Constitution, shall
7 hereafter be omitted in any printed copies thereof prefixed to the laws of the State; but this
8 shall not impair the validity of acts under those sections; ~~and said section 5 shall remain in~~
9 ~~full force, as part of the Constitution, according to the stipulations of said section, with the~~
10 ~~same effect as if contained in said printed copies.~~

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

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

17 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require that the text
18 of Article X, Section 5 of the Constitution be included in any printed copies
19 of the Constitution included with the laws of the State?"

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

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
30 this resolution necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to require that the text of Article
33 X, Section 5 of the Constitution of Maine, which pertains to Maine Indian treaty
34 obligations, be included in any printed copies of the Constitution included with the laws of
35 the State.