

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 713

H.P. 482

House of Representatives, February 16, 2023

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine to Dedicate a Portion of Sales and Use Taxes from All Motor
Vehicle Sales and Motor Vehicle-related Sales to the Highway Fund
for Road and Bridge Capital Improvements**

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ANDREWS of Paris.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CARMICHAEL of Greenbush, QUINT of Hodgdon,
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, Senators: BRAKEY of Androscoggin, LIBBY of Cumberland.

Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two thirds of each branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of Maine be proposed:

Constitution, Art. IX, §26 is enacted to read:

Section 26. Revenues from motor vehicle sales and use taxes. Beginning in July 2024, 50% of the revenue from the sales and use taxes imposed on sales of motor vehicles and sales related to motor vehicles must be deposited in the Highway Fund for road and bridge capital improvements. Beginning in August 2024, and every month thereafter, the State Controller shall transfer to the Highway Fund for road and bridge capital improvements an amount that is equal to 50% of the revenue from the taxes imposed on sales of motor vehicles and sales related to motor vehicles for the previous month. The amount transferred must be based on actual sales for that month and may not consider any accruals that may be required by law. The State Tax Assessor shall certify to the State Controller by the 15th day of each month the amounts to be transferred and credited under this section as of the close of the State Controller's records for the previous month.

Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date.
Resolved: That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in November 2023, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to dedicate 50% of sales and use tax revenue from sales of motor vehicles and sales related to motor vehicles to the Highway Fund for road and bridge capital improvements?"

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 square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of 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 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.

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.

SUMMARY

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to dedicate 50% of sales and use tax revenue from sales of motor vehicles and sales related to motor vehicles to the Highway Fund for road and bridge capital improvements.