

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 776

S.P. 335

In Senate, February 21, 2023

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**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine to Establish the Right to Bodily Autonomy**

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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 HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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. I, §26** is enacted to read:

5 **Section 26. Bodily autonomy.** Every person has a natural, inherent and inalienable  
6 right to bodily autonomy.

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

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

13 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to declare that every  
14 person has a natural, inherent and inalienable right to bodily autonomy?"

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

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

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine by declaring that every  
28 person has a natural, inherent and inalienable right to bodily autonomy.