

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1629

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S.P. 646

In Senate, April 12, 2023

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine to Recognize the Right to Personal Privacy**

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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 BRAKEY of Androscoggin.

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, §1** is amended to read:

5           **Section 1. Natural rights.** All people are born equally free and independent, and  
6           have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying  
7           and defending life ~~and~~ liberty and personal privacy, acquiring, possessing and protecting  
8           property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

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

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

15                     "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to explicitly recognize  
16                     a natural right to personal privacy?"

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

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

## 28   SUMMARY

29          This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to recognize the people's  
30          natural, inherent and unalienable right to personal privacy.