

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2196

H.P. 1407

House of Representatives, January 30, 2024

**Resolve, to Authorize the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial
Court to Arrange the Constitution of Maine to Incorporate
Amendments Approved at the November 2023 Referendum**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and
Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of
Portland, MORIARTY of Cumberland, POIRIER of Skowhegan, SHEEHAN of Biddeford.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the Constitution of Maine, Article X, Section 6 requires the Chief Justice
4 of the Supreme Judicial Court to arrange the Constitution of Maine and submit the
5 arrangement to the Legislature once every 10 years, unless sooner authorized by the
6 Legislature; and

7 **Whereas,** the Chief Justice performed this requirement in the spring of 2023; and

8 **Whereas,** in November 2023, 2 amendments to the Constitution of Maine were
9 approved by the voters at referendum; and

10 **Whereas,** in order to ensure that the Constitution of Maine is as up to date as possible
11 and avoid printing of versions of the Constitution of Maine that are incomplete and
12 incorrect, it is necessary that the Chief Justice prepare an arrangement of the Constitution
13 of Maine that includes the 2 amendments that were approved in November 2023; and

14 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
15 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
16 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 **Sec. 1. Chief Justice authorized to prepare arrangement of Constitution of**
19 **Maine reflecting changes approved at November 2023 referendum. Resolved:**
20 That, pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article X, Section 6, the Chief Justice of the
21 Supreme Judicial Court is authorized to arrange the Constitution of Maine and include in
22 that arrangement the amendments to the Constitution of Maine approved by the voters at
23 referendum in November 2023.

24 **Sec. 2. Amendments to be included in arrangement of Constitution of**
25 **Maine. Resolved:** That the following constitutional resolutions approved by the voters
26 at the November 2023 referendum must be included in the arrangement authorized pursuant
27 to section 1:

28 1. Constitutional Resolution 2023, chapter 1: RESOLUTION, Proposing an
29 Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require All Provisions in the Constitution to
30 Be Included in the Official Printing; and

31 2. Constitutional Resolution 2023, chapter 2: RESOLUTION, Proposing an
32 Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Timing of Judicial Review of the
33 Determination of the Validity of Written Petitions.

34 **Sec. 3. Submission to Legislature. Resolved:** That the Chief Justice of the
35 Supreme Judicial Court shall submit the arrangement authorized by this resolve to the
36 Legislature no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve.

37 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
38 takes effect when approved.

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SUMMARY

This resolve authorizes the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to arrange the Constitution of Maine to include the 2 amendments to the constitution approved at referendum in November 2023 and submit the arrangement to the Legislature no later than 30 days after the effective date of this resolve.