

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 14.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES providing for an amendment of the constitution, relating to the raising of money for the support of common schools.

Resolved, Two thirds of both branches of the legislature concurring, that the constitution of this state shall be amended as follows, to wit :

Article eight, lines four and five, strike out the words, "the several towns to make suitable provision at their own expense," and insert in place thereof the words, "annually to levy and assess a state tax upon the valuation of the whole state, as established by the laws thereof," so that the article as amended will read as follows :

11

ARTICLE VIII.

12 A general diffusion of the advantages of education
13 being essential to the preservation of the rights and
14 liberties of the people, to promote this important

15 object, the legislature are hereby authorized and it
16 shall be their duty annually, to levy and assess a state
17 tax upon the valuation of the whole state as estab-
18 lished by the laws thereof, for the support and main-
19 tenance of public schools; and it shall further be their
20 duty to encourage and suitably endow from time to
21 time, as the circumstances of the people may author-
22 ize, all academies, colleges and seminaries of learning
23 within the state; *provided* that no donation, grant or
24 endowment shall at any time be made by the legisla-
25 ture to any literary institution now established or
26 which may hereafter be established, unless at the time
27 of making such endowment, the legislature of the state
28 shall have a right to grant any further powers to alter,
29 limit or restrain any of the powers vested in any such
30 literary institution, as shall be judged necessary to
31 promote the best interests thereof.

Resolved, That the aldermen of cities, and the select-
2 men of the several towns, and the assessors of the
3 several plantations in the state, are hereby empowered
4 and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respec-
5 tive cities, towns and plantations, in the manner pre-
6 scribed by law at the annual meeting in September
7 next, to give in their votes upon the amendment pro-
8 posed in the foregoing resolve; and the question shall
9 be, shall the constitution be amended as proposed by

10 a resolve of the legislature, providing for an amend-
11 ment of the constitution, providing that the legislature
12 shall annually levy and assess a state tax upon the
13 whole state valuation as established by the laws there-
14 of for the support and maintenance of public schools?
15 and the inhabitants of said cities, towns and planta-
16 tions shall vote by ballot on said question, as provided
17 in the foregoing resolve, those in favor of said amend-
18 ment respectively expressing it by the word "YES"
19 upon their ballot, and those opposed to the amendment
20 respectively expressing it by the word "NO" upon
21 their ballot; and the ballots shall be received, sorted,
22 counted and declared in open ward, town and planta-
23 tion meeting, and lists shall be made out of the votes
24 by the aldermen, selectmen and assessors and clerks
25 of the several cities, towns and plantations, and re-
26 turned to the office of the secretary of state, in the
27 same manner as votes for senators, and the governor
28 and council shall count the same, and make return
29 thereof to the next legislature, and if a majority of the
30 votes are in favor of said amendment, the constitution
31 shall be amended accordingly.

Resolved, That the secretary of state shall prepare
2 and furnish the several cities, towns and plantations,
3 blank returns, in conformity to the foregoing resolves,
4 accompanied with a copy thereof.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 26, 1872.

Reported from Committee on Education, by Mr. FARRINGTON
of Oxford, and laid over to be printed under the Joint Rule.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*