

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty - Third Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 32.

STATE OF MAINE.

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred Resolve entitled "Resolve concerning an amendment of the Constitution so as to give women the elective franchise," and petitions signed by 2,268 citizens and residents of the State in aid of the same, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report that the Committee is equally divided upon the matter and unable to make a report either for or against the passage of the Resolve. The Committee, therefore, reports the Resolve back to the Legislature for such further action as may be deemed expedient.

H. M. HEATH,

for Committee.

RESOLVE concerning an amendment of the Constitution of Maine, so as to give to women the Elective Franchise.

Resolved, That the following amendment to the
2 constitution of this State be proposed for the action
3 of the legal voters of this State in the manner
4 provided by the constitution, viz:

“AMENDMENT.”

“No discrimination on account of sex shall exist
6 in the State in the exercise of the elective franchise.
7 Every citizen, male or female, of the United States
8 of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, ex-
9 cepting paupers, persons under guardianship, and
10 Indians not taxed, having his or her residence
11 established in this State for the term of three
12 months next preceding any election, shall be an
13 elector for governor, senators and representatives,
14 in the town or plantation where his or her resi-
15 dence is so established; and the elections shall be
16 by written ballot. But persons in the military,
17 naval or marine service of the United States, or
18 this State, shall not be considered as having ob-

19 tained such established residence by being stationed
20 in any garrison, barrack, or military place, in any
21 town or plantation; nor shall the residence of a
22 student at any seminary of learning entitle him or
23 her to the right of suffrage in the town or plan-
24 tation where such seminary is established. No per-
25 son, however, shall be deemed to have lost his resi-
26 dence by reason of his absence from the State in the
27 military service of the United States, or of this
28 State.”

Resolved, That the aldermen of cities, the select-
30 men of towns, and the assessors of the several
31 plantations of this State, are hereby empowered
32 and directed to notify the voters of their respec-
33 tive cities, town and plantations, in the manner
34 prescribed by law, at the meeting in September,
35 A. D., 1888, to give in their votes upon the amend-
36 ment proposed in the foregoing resolution; and the
37 question shall be ‘Shall the constitution be amended
38 as proposed by a resolution of the legislature pro-
39 viding that no discrimination on account of sex
40 shall exist in the State in the exercise of the elec-
41 toral franchise;’ and the inhabitants of the said
42 cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on
43 said question, those in favor of said amendment
44 expressing it by the word ‘yes,’ upon their ballots,

45 and those opposed to the amendment expressing it
46 by the word 'no,' upon their ballots, and the ballots
47 shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in
48 open ward, town and plantation meeting, and
49 lists of the votes so received shall be made and
50 returned to the Secretary of State in the same
51 manner as votes for governor; and the governor
52 and council shall count the same and make return
53 to the legislature; and if a majority of the votes
54 are in favor of said amendment, the constitution
55 shall be amended accordingly.

Resolved, That the Secretary of State shall pre-
57 pare and furnish to the several cities, towns and
58 plantations, ballots and blank returns in conform-
59 ity to the foregoing resolves, accompanied with a
60 copy thereof.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 10, 1887.

Reported by Mr. HEATH from Committee on Judiciary, and on motion
by the same Senator, report and resolve laid on table to be printed.

C. W. TILDEN, Secretary.