

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 381.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES to amend the amendment to the Constitution providing for an Educational Qualification of Voters.

Resolved, Two-thirds of both branches of the legislature concurring that the constitution of this state be amended as follows: by striking out the words “in the English language” in the third line of the amendment to the constitution providing for an educational qualification of voters, so that said amendment shall read as follows:

‘No person shall have the right to vote or be eligible to office under the constitution of the state who shall not be able to read the constitution, and write his name, provided, however, that the provisions of this amendment shall not apply to any person prevented by a physical disability from complying with its requisitions, nor to any person who now has the right to vote nor to any person who shall be sixty years or upwards at the time this amendment shall take effect.’

Resolved, That the aldermen of cities, selectmen of
17 towns and assessors of plantations in the state, are hereby
18 empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their
19 respective cities, towns and plantations, in the manner
20 prescribed by law, at the annual meeting in September,
21 1896, to give in their votes upon the amendment proposed
22 in the foregoing resolve, and the question shall be “shall
23 the constitution be so amended as to change the qualifica-
24 tion of voters as proposed in said resolve,” and the inhab-
25 itants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by
26 ballot on said question ; those in favor of said amendment
27 voting “yes” and those opposed voting “no” upon their
28 ballots ; and the ballots shall be received, sorted, and
29 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation
30 meeting, and fair lists of the votes shall be made out by
31 the aldermen of cities, selectmen of towns and assessors
32 of plantations and signed by them and attested by the
33 clerk and returned to the office of the secretary of state,
34 in the same manner as votes for representatives, and the
35 governor and council shall open and examine and count
36 the same, and make return thereof to the legislature, and
37 if it shall appear that a majority of the votes cast and
38 returned on the question is in favor of said amendment,
39 the constitution shall be amended accordingly, and the
40 amendment shall then be a part of the constitution and
41 the governor shall make known the fact by his proclama-
42 tion.

Resolved, That the secretary of state shall prepare and
44 furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations, blank
45 returns in conformity with the foregoing resolves, accom-
46 panied by a copy thereof.

MAJORITY REPORT.

The Committee on Judiciary to whom was referred the petition of Abraham J. Dubay and fifty others of Van Buren, praying for a resubmission of the amendment to the constitution requiring an educational qualification for voters, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report that the petitioners have leave to withdraw.

SPOFFORD,
SAVAGE,
HIGGINS,
HAMLIN,
LARRABEE,
HAINES,
NOBLE,
KNOWLTON,
PARSONS.

MINORITY REPORT.

The undersigned a minority of the Committee on Judiciary to whom was referred the petition of, praying that the amendment to the Constitution providing for an educational qualification be amended so as to allow persons otherwise qualified to vote who can read the Constitution and write their names, without requiring them to read it in the English language, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report resolves which are herewith submitted, entitled 'Resolves to amend the amendment to the Constitution providing for an educational qualification of voters.'

PETER C. KEEGAN.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 19, 1895.

Tabled pending acceptance of either report on motion of Mr. KEEGAN
of Van Buren and with resolves accompanying ordered printed.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*