

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

No. 244

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE proposing an amendment to article four of the constitution of the State of Maine, establishing a people's veto through the optional referendum, and a direct initiative by petition and at general elections.

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

'Article IV. Part third is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

Section 16. No act of the legislature not passed to be enacted by a two-thirds vote of each house, taken by yeas and nays, shall take effect until ninety days after the recess of the legislature passing it. Any act, if ten per cent of the voters calculated upon the vote at the preceding general elec-

12 tion for governor, not more than fifteen per cent of whom
13 shall be from any one county, by petition signed and filed
14 with the secretary of state within said time, shall so request,
15 shall be submitted to the people, on a ballot by itself, not
16 later than the next general election and shall only go into
17 effect ten days after the governor and council canvassing
18 the vote thereon shall declare a majority of the votes upon
19 such act to have been cast therefor.

Sect. 17. Ten per cent of the voters by petition or by
21 posters attached to the official ballot at any general election
22 —said percentage to be subject to the conditions provided in
23 section sixteen—may propose any measure, except a consti-
24 tutional amendment, and when so proposed, such measure
25 shall be acted on at the current or next session of the legis-
26 lature which shall not have adjourned thirty days after such
27 petition has been filed with the secretary of state or such
28 election has been held; and the measure proposed if no meas-
29 ure is passed or any measure passed in pursuance thereof,
30 unless passed without change, which would be the subject of
31 referendum under section sixteen, shall be submitted to a
32 vote of the people as provided for in that section, without
33 further petition therefor.'

Resolved, That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of
35 towns and the assessors of the several plantations in this
36 State are hereby empowered and directed to notify the
37 inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations
38 in the manner prescribed by law at the meeting in Septem-
39 ber in the year one thousand nine hundred and six upon the
40 amendment proposed in the foregoing resolution, and the
41 question shall be

“Shall the constitution be amended as proposed by a reso-
43 lution of the legislature providing for the establishment of
44 a people’s veto through the optional referendum and a direct

45 initiative by petition and at general elections?" and the
46 inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote
47 by ballot on said question, those favoring the amendment
48 voting "yes" and those opposed voting "no" upon their bal-
49 lots, and the ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and
50 declared in open ward, town and plantation meeting and
51 lists of the votes so received shall be made and returned to
52 the office of the secretary of state in the same manner as
53 votes for governor and members of the legislature, and the
54 governor and council shall count the same and make return
55 to the next legislature, and if it shall appear that a majority
56 of the votes are in favor of the amendment, the constitution
57 shall be amended accordingly.

Resolved, That the secretary of state shall prepare and fur-
59 nish to the several cities, towns and plantations, ballots and
60 blank returns in conformity to the foregoing resolves accom-
61 panied by a copy thereof.

MAJORITY REPORT.

The committee on judiciary, to which was referred "Resolve proposing an amendment to article 4 of the constitution of the State of Maine, establishing a people's veto through the optional referendum, and a direct initiative by petition and at general elections," have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report that the same ought not to pass.

POWERS,
ALLEN,
HIGGINS,
POTTER,
NEWCOMB,
HALE.

MINORITY REPORT.

The committee on judiciary, to which was referred "Resolve proposing an amendment to article 4 of the constitution of Maine, establishing a people's veto through the optional referendum, and a direct initiative by petition and at general elections," have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report the same in a new draft, under the same title, and that it ought to pass.

E. S. CLARK,
A. S. LITTLEFIELD,
E. N. MERRILL,
CHARLES F. JOHNSON.

 STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 17, 1905.

Pending acceptance of either report, laid on table to be printed on motion by Mr. CLARK of Hancock.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.