

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 754

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*House of Representatives, Mar. 24, 1911.*

*The following resolve, which is House Resolve No. 31 as amended by House Amendment "A" (House Document No. 739), was this day tabled for printing.*

*C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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RÉSOLVE to amend article 22 of the Constitution, relating to cities of forty thousand inhabitants or more to increase the municipal indebtedness to seven and one-half per centum.

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*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 twenty-two of said Constitution, limiting municipal indebtedness, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "town" in the first line thereof, the following words 'having less than forty thousand inhabitants, according to the last census taken by the United States' and by inserting after the word "however" in the fourth line, the following words 'that cities with a population of forty thousand or more, according to the last census taken by the United States, may create a debt or liability which single or in the aggregate, with previous debt or liability, shall equal sev-

14 en and one-half per centum of the last regular valuation of  
15 said city, that the debt of said cities of forty thousand inhab-  
16 itants, or over, shall not be increased in any one year, to a  
17 greater amount than one quarter of one per cent of said  
18 cities assessed valuation, and provided further,' and by add-  
19 ing the words 'This resolution shall not be construed to apply  
20 to the city of Augusta, which is hereby declared to be forever  
21 the seat of government of this State, when it reaches the pop-  
22 ulation of forty thousand,' so that said article, as amended,  
23 shall read as follows:

    'No city or town having less than forty thousand inhabit-  
25 ants, according to the last census taken by the United States,  
26 shall hereafter create any debt or liability, which single or  
27 in the aggregate, with previous debts or liabilities, shall ex-  
28 ceed five per centum of the last regular valuation of said city  
29 or town; provided, however, that cities having a population  
30 of forty thousand or more, according to the last census taken  
31 by the United States, may create a debt or liability which  
32 single or in the aggregate, with previous debts or liabilities,  
33 shall equal seven and one-half percentum of the last regular  
34 valuation of said city, that the debt of said cities of forty  
35 thousand inhabitants or over, shall not be increased in any  
36 one year, to a greater amount than one-quarter of one per  
37 cent of said cities assessed valuation, and provided further,  
38 that the adoption of this article shall not be construed as  
39 applying to any fund received in trust by said city or town,  
40 nor to any loan for the purpose of renewing existing loans,

41 or for war or to temporary loans to be paid out of the money  
42 raised by taxes during the year in which they were made.  
43 This resolution shall not be construed to apply to the city of  
44 Augusta, which is hereby declared to be forever the seat of  
45 government of this State, when it reaches the population of  
46 forty thousand.

*Resolved:* That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of  
48 towns and the assessors of the several plantations in this  
49 State, are hereby empowered and directed to notify the  
50 inhabitants of their respective cities, towns, or plantations,  
51 in the manner provided by law, to vote at a meeting to be  
52 held on the second Monday of September in the year one  
53 thousand nine hundred and eleven, upon an amendment  
54 proposed in the foregoing resolution, and the question shall  
55 be: 'Shall the constitution be amended as proposed by reso-  
56 lution of the legislature providing that towns having a pop-  
57 ulation of forty thousand inhabitants or more, according to  
58 the last census taken by the United States, be permitted to  
59 create a debt or liability which single or in the aggregate  
60 equals seven and one-half per centum of its last regular val-  
61 uation and that the increase in amount of debt be no greater  
62 than one-quarter of one per centum of any cities assessed  
63 valuation in any one year, and the inhabitants of said city,  
64 town, or plantation shall vote by ballot on said question,  
65 those favoring the amendment voting 'Yes' and those oppos-  
66 ing voting 'No' upon their ballots, and the ballots shall be  
67 received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town

68 and plantation meetings and lists of the votes so received  
69 shall be made and returned to the office of the Secretary of  
70 State in the same manner as votes for governor and members  
71 of the legislature, and the governor and council shall count  
72 the same and make return to the next legislature, and if it  
73 shall appear that a majority of the votes are in favor of the  
74 amendment, the constitution shall be amended accordingly.

*Resolved:* That the secretary of State shall prepare and  
76 furnish to the several cities, towns, and plantations, ballots  
77 and blank returns in conformity to the foregoing resolves  
78 accompanied by a copy thereof.'