

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 759

House of Representatives, March 24, 1911.

Introduced by Mr. Hogan of Portland, who moved its reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs. By Mr. Davies of Yarmouth tabled for printing pending reference to a committee.

C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE 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.

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 having a population of forty thousand or more, according to the last census taken by the United States, may create a debt or liability which sin-

13 gle or in the aggregate with previous debt or liability, shall
14 equal seven and one-half per centum of the last regular
15 valuation of said city, that cities of forty thousand inhab-
16 itants or over, may, by a majority vote of their city gov-
17 ernment, increase the present rate of five per centum by
18 one-fourth of one per centum in any one municipal year
19 until in not less than ten years, the maximum rate of seven
20 and one-half per cent is reached, that any city failing to
21 take the increase in any one municipal year then the increase
22 for that year is lost and no increase can be made until the
23 next year as provided above, and provided further,' so that
24 said article as amended, shall read as follows:

'No city or town having less than forty thousand inhab-
26 itants, according to the last census taken by the United
27 States, shall hereafter create any debt or liability, which
28 single or in the aggregate, with previous debts or liabilities
29 shall exceed five per centum of the last regular valuation
30 of said city or town; provided, however, that cities having
31 a population of forty thousand or more, according to the
32 last census taken by the United States, may create a debt
33 or liability which single or in the aggregate, with previous
34 debts or liabilities, shall equal seven and one-half per cent
35 of the last regular valuation of said city, that cities of forty
36 thousand inhabitants, or over, may, by a majority vote of
37 their city government, increase the present rate of five per
38 centum by one-fourth of one per cent in any one municipal
39 year, until, in not less than ten years, the maximum rate

40 of seven and one-half per cent is reached, that any city
41 failing to take the increase in any one municipal year then
42 the increase for that year is lost and no increase can be
43 made until the next year as provided above, and provided
44 further, that the adoption of this article shall not be con-
45 strued as applying to any fund received in trust by said
46 city or town, nor to any loan for the purpose of renewing
47 existing loans, or for war or to temporary loans to be paid
48 out of the money raised by taxes during the year in which
49 they were made.'

Resolved, That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of
51 towns, and the assessors of the several plantations in this
52 state, are hereby empowered and directed to notify the in-
53 habitants of their respective cities, towns, or plantations,
54 in the manner provided by law, to vote at a meeting to be
55 held on the second Monday of September in the year one
56 thousand nine hundred and eleven, upon an amendment
57 proposed in the foregoing resolution, and the question shall
58 be: Shall the constitution be amended as proposed by reso-
59 lution of the Legislature providing that the towns having
60 a population of forty thousand inhabitants or more, accord-
61 ing to the last census taken by the United States, be per-
62 mitted to create a debt or liability which single or in the
63 aggregate equals seven and one-half per centum of its last
64 regular valuation and that the increase in amount of debt
65 be no greater than one-quarter of one per centum, over the
66 present rate of five per cent in any one year, and the inhab-

67 itants of said city, town or plantation shall vote by ballot
68 on said question, those favoring the amendment voting
69 "Yes" upon their ballots and those opposing voting "No"
70 upon their ballots, and the ballots shall be received, sorted,
71 counted, and declared in open ward, town, and plantation
72 meetings, and lists of the votes so received shall be made
73 and returned to the office of secretary of state in the same
74 manner as votes for Governor and members of the Legis-
75 lature and the Governor and Council shall count the same
76 and make return to the next Legislature and if it shall
77 appear that a majority of the votes are in favor of the
78 amendment the constitution shall be amended accordingly.

Resolved, That the secretary of state shall prepare and
80 furnish to the several cities, towns, and plantations, ballots
81 and blank returns in conformity to the foregoing resolves
82 accompanied by a copy thereof.