

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 269

In Senate, March 4, 1915.

Ordered, That five hundred copies be printed and that the same be referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs.

Committee on Reference.

Presented by Mr. Bartlett of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE, to amend article twenty-two of the Constitution, as amended, relating to the limit of municipal indebtedness of cities.

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, as amended, by striking out after the word "no" in the first line the words "city or" and striking out after the word "town" in the first line and before the word "shall" in the second line the words "having less than forty thousand inhabitants according to the last census taken by the United States" and striking out after the word "said" in the fifth line the words "city or" and striking out after the word

12 “cities” in the sixth line and before the word “many” in
13 the eighth line the words “having a population of forty
14 thousand or more according to the last census taken by the
15 United States,” and striking out after the word “cities” in
16 the eleventh line the words “forty thousand inhabitants or
17 over,” so that said article as amended shall read as fol-
18 lows:

‘No town shall hereafter create any debt or liability, which
20 single or in the aggregate, with previous debts or liabilities
21 shall exceed five per centum of the last regular valuation of
22 said town; provided, however, that cities may create a debt
23 of liability which single or in the aggregate with previous
24 debts or liabilities shall equal seven and one-half per cent
25 of the regular valuation of said city, that cities may, by a
26 majority vote of their city government increase the present
27 rate of five per centum by one-fourth of one per cent in
28 any one municipal year, until, in not less than ten years, the
29 maximum rate of seven and one-half per cent is reached,
30 that any city failing to take the increase in any one municipal
31 year then the increase for that year is lost and no increase
32 can be made until the next year as provided above, and
33 provided further, that the adoption of this article shall not
34 be construed as applying to any fund received in trust by
35 said city or town, nor to any loan for the purpose of renew-
36 ing existing loans, or for war or to temporary loans to be
37 paid out of the money raised by taxes during the year in
38 which they were made.’

Resolved, That the aldermen of cities, selectmen of towns, 40 and the assessors of the several plantations in this state, are 41 hereby empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants 42 of their respective cities, towns or plantations, in the man- 43 ner provided by law, to vote at a meeting to be held on the 44 second Monday of September in the year one thousand nine 45 hundred and sixteen upon an amendment proposed in the 46 foregoing resolution, and the question shall be: "Shall the 47 constitution be amended as proposed by resolution of the 48 legislature providing that cities be permitted to create a debt 49 or liability which single or in the aggregate equals seven and 50 one-half per centum of its last regular valuation and that 51 the increase in amount of debt be no greater than one-quar- 52 ter of one per centum, over the present rate of five per cent 53 in any one year?" and the inhabitants of said city, town or 54 plantation shall vote by ballot on said question, those favor- 55 ing the amendment voting "yes" upon their ballots and those 56 opposing voting "no" upon their ballots, and the ballots 57 shall be received, sorted, counted, and declared in open ward, 58 town, and plantation meetings, and lists of the votes so re- 59 ceived shall be made and returned to the office of secretary 60 of state in the same manner as votes for governor and mem- 61 bers of the legislature and the governor and council shall 62 count the same and make return to the next legislature and 63 if it shall appear that a majority of the votes are in favor 64 of the amendment the constitution shall be amended accord- 65 ingly.

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