

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 117

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*In Senate, Feb. 7, 1917.*

*Reported by Mr. Gillin from Committee on Judiciary and  
ordered printed under joint rules.*

*L. ERNEST THORNTON, Secretary pro tem.*

*Presented by Mr. Swift of Kennebec.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

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RESOLVE Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution  
Granting Suffrage to Women upon Equal Terms with Men.

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*Resolved*, two-thirds of the legislature concurring, that the  
2 following amendment to the constitution of this state be  
3 proposed for the action of the legal voters, to wit, by adding  
4 thereto the following article:

'The right to vote or to hold office shall not be denied or  
2 abridged on account of sex; provided, however, that citizens  
3 by marriage only shall not be allowed to vote or hold office  
4 until after a period of residence in the United States equal  
5 to that required by law for the naturalization of men in this

6 state. In the construction of this constitution the masculine  
7 pronoun shall be construed as including both men and wo-  
8 men.

'Section 1 of article two of this constitution is amended by  
2 striking out the word "male" in the first line of said section.'

*Resolved*, that the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of  
2 towns, and the assessors of the several plantations in this  
3 state are hereby empowered and directed to notify the in-  
4 habitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations  
5 to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and  
6 holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the elec-  
7 tion of senators and representatives, on the second Monday  
8 in September following the passage of this resolve, to give  
9 in their votes upon the amendment proposed in the fore-  
10 going resolution, and the question shall be: "Shall the con-  
11 stitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the  
12 Legislature granting suffrage to women upon equal terms  
13 with men?"

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns, and plantations  
2 shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the  
3 amendment expressing it by the word "Yes" upon their bal-  
4 lots and those opposed to the amendment by the word "No"  
5 upon their ballots, and the ballots shall be received, sorted,  
6 counted, and declared in open ward, town, and plantation  
7 meetings, and returns made to the office of secretary of  
8 state in the same manner as votes for governor and mem-  
9 bers of the Legislature, and the governor and council sha!

10 count the same, and if it shall appear that a majority of the  
11 inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of the amend-  
12 ment, it shall thereupon become a part of the constitution,  
13 and the governor shall forthwith make known the fact by  
14 his proclamation.

*Resolved*, that the secretary of state shall prepare and fur-  
2 nish to the several cities, towns, and plantations ballots and  
3 blank returns in conformity with the foregoing resolves  
4 accompanied by a copy thereof.