

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT

E I G H T Y - S I X T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1046

H. P. 1734

House of Representatives, March 29, 1933.

Reported by Mr. Wright, Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

New Draft of H. P. 117, L. D. 626.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE

RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide for a Bond Issue, the Proceeds to be Disbursed for the Relief of Conditions Threatening the Peace, Health and Safety of the Inhabitants of the State or Political Subdivisions thereof.

Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two-thirds of the legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the constitution of this state be proposed:

Article IX, constitution, amended. Article IX of the constitution is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

'Sec. 20. Bond issue to be disbursed for emergency relief. The state under proper enactment of the legislature may issue its bonds not to exceed the amount of \$2,000,000 payable within 10 years, at a rate of interest not exceeding 5% per annum, payable semi-annually, the proceeds to be disbursed directly, or by loans to cities, towns and plantations, to be expended or as reimbursement for expenditures for the emergency relief of conditions threatening the peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the state or any political subdivision thereof, and for no other purpose. Said bonds shall be designated "Loan for Emergency Relief", and when paid at maturity or otherwise retired, may be reissued for such purposes only.'

Article IX, § 14 of the constitution; relating to state debt limit, amended. Section 14 of said Article IX, as amended by articles XXXV, XLI, XLII, XLIII, and XLV, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 14. The credit of the state shall not be directly or indirectly loaned in any case. The credit of the state shall not be directly or indirectly loaned in any case. The legislature shall not create any debt or debts, liability or liabilities, on behalf of the state, which shall singly, or in the aggregate, with previous debts and liabilities hereafter incurred at any one time, exceed ~~eight hundred thousand dollars~~ **\$2,000,000**, except for the purposes of building state highways, intrastate, interstate and international bridges; to suppress insurrection, to repel invasion, or for the purposes of war; to provide for the payment of a bonus to Maine soldiers and sailors in the war with Germany; or for the purposes of building and maintaining public wharves and for the establishment of adequate port facilities in the state of Maine; **or for the emergency relief of conditions threatening the peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the state or any political subdivision thereof**; but this amendment shall not be construed to refer to any money that has been, or may be deposited with this state by the government of the United States, or to any fund which the state shall hold in trust for any Indian tribe.'

Article XXII of the constitution; relating to municipal debt limit, amended. Article XXII of the constitution as amended by article XXXIV is hereby amended to read as follows:

'No city or town having less than 40,000 inhabitants, according to the last census taken by the United States, shall hereafter create any debt or liability, which singly, or in the aggregate, with previous debts or liabilities shall exceed 5% of the last regular valuation of said city or town; that cities having a population of 40,000 or more, according to the last census taken by the United States, may create a debt or liability which singly or in the aggregate, with previous debts or liabilities, shall equal 7½% of the last regular valuation of said city, that cities of 40,000 inhabitants, or over, may, by a majority vote of their city government, increase the present rate of 5% by ¼ of 1% in any one municipal year, until, in not less than 10 years, the maximum rate of 7½% is reached, that any city failing to take the increase in any one municipal year then the increase for that year is lost and no increase can be made until the next year as provided above, and that the adoption of this article shall not be construed as applying to any fund received in trust by said city or town, nor to any loan for the purpose of renewing existing loans, or for war, **or to loans from the state for emergency relief**, or to temporary loans to be paid out of the money raised by taxes during the year in which they were made.'

Form of question and date when amendment shall be voted upon. Resolved: That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations of this state, are hereby empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of senators and representatives, on the 2nd Monday in September following the passage of this resolve, to give in their votes upon the amendment proposed in the foregoing resolution, and the question shall be:

“Shall the constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the legislature providing for the raising of the state debt limit, for excepting loans from the state from the municipal debt limit and for the issuance of bonds, the proceeds of which are to be disbursed directly or by loans to cities, towns and plantations for the emergency relief of conditions threatening the peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the state or any political subdivision thereof, and for no other purpose?”

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the amendment voting “Yes” upon their ballots and those opposed to the amendment voting “No” upon their ballots, and the ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings, and return made to the office of the secretary of state in the same manner as votes for governor and members of the legislature and the governor and council shall count the same and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of the amendment, the governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation and the amendment shall thereupon as of the date of said proclamation become a part of the constitution.’

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