

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 53

H. P. 119

House of Representatives, January 20, 1937.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and 500 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Stoddard of Eastport.

S T A T E O F M A I N E

I N T H E Y E A R O F O U R L O R D N I N E T E E N H U N D R E D
T H I R T Y - S E V E N

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide for
a Change in the Term of Office of Sheriffs.**

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

Article XXXVIII, constitution, amended. Article XXXVIII of the constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 10. Tenure of sheriffs. Sheriffs shall be elected by the people of their respective counties, by a plurality of the votes given in on the second Monday of September, and shall hold their office for ~~two~~ **four** years from the first day of January next after their election, unless sooner removed as hereinafter provided.

Whenever the governor and council upon complaint, due notice and hearing shall find that a sheriff is not faithfully or efficiently performing any duty imposed upon him by law, the governor may remove such sheriff from office and with the advice and consent of the council appoint another sheriff in his place for the remainder of the term for which such removed

sheriff was elected. All vacancies in the office of sheriff, other than those caused by removal in the manner aforesaid shall be filled in the same manner as is provided in the case of judges and registers of probate.'

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, at the next general or special state-wide election, 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 to provide for a change in the term of office of sheriffs?" 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, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns 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.