

# 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

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 775**

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H. P. 1636

House of Representatives, February 23, 1937.

Received pursuant to joint order. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.  
Sent up for concurrence and 500 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Sleeper of Rockland.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
THIRTY-SEVEN

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**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Relating to the  
Number of Signers on Referendum Petitions.**

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

**Article XXXI, constitution, amended.** Article XXXI of the constitution is hereby amended so that the 1st sentence thereof shall read as follows:

'Upon written petition of not less than ~~ten~~ thirty thousand electors, addressed to the governor and filed in the office of the secretary of state within 90 days after the recess of the legislature, requesting that one or more acts, bills, resolves or resolutions, or part or parts thereof passed by the legislature, but not then in effect by reason of the provisions of the preceding section, be referred to the people, such acts, bills, resolves, or resolutions or part or parts thereof as are specified in such petition shall not take effect until 30 days after the governor shall have announced by public proclamation that the same have been ratified by a majority of the electors voting thereon at a general or special election.'

**Form of question and date when amendment shall be voted upon. Resolved:** That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the as-

sessors 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 relating to the number of signers on referendum petitions?" 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.