

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 932

H. P. 1639

House of Representatives, February 14, 1939.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Jewett of Ripley.

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

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-NINE

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide a
Limitation of Indebtedness for Counties.**

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

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

'No county, 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 single or in the aggregate, with previous debts or liabilities shall exceed 5% of the last regular valuation of said county, city or town: provided, however, 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 single 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 1 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 1 municipal year then the increase for that year is lost and no increase can be made until

the next year as provided above, and provided further, that the adoption of this article shall not be construed as applying to any fund received in trust by said **county**, city or town, nor to any loan for the purpose of renewing existing loans, or for war 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 at the next general or special state-wide election, to give in their votes upon the amendment proposed in the forgoing resolution, and the question shall be "Shall the constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the legislature to provide a Limitation of Indebtedness for Counties?" 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.