

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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Legislative Document

No. 31

H. P. 33

House of Representatives, January 14, 1947.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Allen of Portland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-SEVEN

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**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Changing the  
Tenure of Office of the Governor to Four-Year Terms.**

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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 V, First Part, section 2, constitution, amended.** Section 2 of Part First of Article V of the constitution, as amended by Article XXIII of the constitution, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 2. The governor shall be elected by the qualified electors, and shall hold his office for ~~two~~ **four** years from the first Wednesday of January next following the election.'

**Article II, section 4, constitution, amended.** The 1st and 2nd sentences of section 4 of Article II of the constitution, as amended by Article XXIII of the constitution, are hereby further amended to read as follows:

'The election of ~~Governor~~ senators and representatives shall be on the second Monday of September biennially forever **and the election of governor shall be on the second Monday of September every four years forever.** But citizens of the state absent therefrom in the military service of the United States or of this state, and not in the regular army of the United

States, being otherwise qualified electors, shall be allowed to vote for ~~governor~~ senators and representatives on the second Monday of September biennially forever, in the manner herein provided; **and for governor, on the second Monday of September every four years forever, in the manner herein provided.**'

**Article XXIII, constitution, amended.** The 1st paragraph of Article XXIII of the constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

'The ~~governor~~ senators and representatives in the legislature, shall be elected biennially, and hold office two years from the first Wednesday in January next succeeding their election; and the legislature, at the first session next after the adoption of this article, shall make all needful provisions by law concerning the tenure of office of all county officers, and concerning the annual or biennial reports of the state treasurer and other state officers and institutions; and shall make all such provisions by law as may be required in consequence of the change from annual to biennial elections, and from annual to biennial sessions of the legislature.'

**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 change in the tenure of office of the governor to four-year terms?"

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.