

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

Legislative Document

No. 124

H. P. 171

House of Representatives, January 22, 1947

Referred to Committee on Labor, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Chase of Cape Elizabeth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-SEVEN

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Defining the
Rights and Responsibilities of Labor.**

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

Constitution, Art. I, § 25, additional. Article I of the constitution of the state is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be numbered 25, to read as follows:

'Sec. 25. All public officials of this state, in the exercise of their official duties, shall act with the aim to maintain as the policy of the state that every citizen, both of the United States and of this state, who is a bona fide resident of this state with more than 2 years of continuous current residence, and who shall have demonstrated his worth as a citizen by good behavior and by willingness to work by diligent application to useful tasks to the extent of his capacities and opportunities, shall be deserving during his lifetime of adequate subsistence and the necessities of comfortable living, both for himself and for his dependents similarly qualified as worthy citizens.

A citizen qualified by residence who shall claim subsistence as a right shall not be deprived of such right of subsistence on grounds of unworthiness except by act of an authorized public agency fully informed and after public hearing, and any citizen so deprived shall have the right of trial by jury.

No person able to work who without just cause refuses to work when work is available shall have any right to subsistence from state or municipality or to qualify as a dependent of another who is entitled to subsistence. No person shall interfere in any way with a citizen seeking work of his own choice, or prevent him from performing diligently the tasks for which he has engaged his services. No person shall be qualified to bargain for another upon terms of employment without his individual express consent and authority. No person shall urge or compel an employee to strike against his employer without a grievance arising in the terms and conditions of his own employment, or in order to put pressure upon another employer or upon the public. No person shall have the right to refuse to work at his usual occupation when such refusal would endanger the public peace, health and safety.'

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 define the rights and responsibilities of labor?" 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.