

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

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. 1174

H. P. 1544

House of Representatives, February 27, 1947

Transmitted by the revisor of statutes pursuant to joint order

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Doucette of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-SEVEN

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Providing for
Lower Age to Qualify as a Voter.**

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. II, § 1, amended. Section 1 of article II of the constitution of the state, as amended by articles XLIV, LVII and LXI, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1. Every citizen of the United States of the age of ~~21~~ 18 years and upwards, excepting paupers, persons under guardianship and Indians not taxed, having his or her residence established in this state for the term of 6 months next preceding any election, shall be an elector for governor, senators and representatives, in the city, town or plantation where his or her residence has been established for the term of 3 months next preceding such election, and he or she shall continue to be an elector in such city, town or plantation for the period of 3 months after his or her removal therefrom, if he or she continues to reside in this state during such period; and the elections shall be by written ballot. But persons in the military,

naval or marine service of the United States, or this state, shall not be considered as having obtained such established residence by being stationed in any garrison, barrack or military place in any city, town or plantation; nor shall the residence of a student at any seminary of learning entitle him to the right of suffrage in the city, town or plantation where such seminary is established. No person, however, shall be deemed to have lost his residence by reason of his absence from the state in the military service of the United States or of this state.'

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 providing for lower age to qualify as a voter?" 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.