

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 886

H. P. 1572

House of Representatives, February 17, 1949.

Reported by Committee on Constitutional Revision. Referred to Committee on Judiciary, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Set Forth the
Duty of the State and the Towns Towards Education.**

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

Constitution, Art. VIII, repealed and replaced. Article VIII of the constitution is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'ARTICLE VIII.

Education.

A general diffusion of the advantage of education being essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people, the legislature is authorized and it shall be its duty to require the cities and towns to make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of public schools, to the end that the quality of instruction shall be uniformly high throughout the state, and to promote this objective the legislature may raise by general taxation and appropriate for the equalization of educational opportunities such funds as may be required to supplement the means of cities and towns according to their several needs for the attainment of standards as determined by legislative authority either directly exercised or delegated; and it shall further be the duty of the legislature to encourage and suitably

support and endow, from time to time as the circumstances of the people may authorize, such institutions of learning, including academies, colleges, seminaries and training schools, as may be deemed necessary to supplement and complete public educational facilities for the instruction and training of worthy students in advanced knowledge and skills; provided, however, that no donation, grant or endowment shall at any time be made by the legislature to any such institution of learning unless the legislature shall have the right to alter, limit or restrain any of the powers vested in such institution as shall be judged necessary to promote the best interests thereof.'

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 set forth the duty of the state and the towns towards education?" 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.