

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY - FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 397

S. P. 185

In Senate, February 2, 1951

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

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Sleeper of Knox.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-ONE

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide
for Number of State Senators.**

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. IV, Part Second, § 1, amended. Section 1 of Part Second of Article IV of the constitution, as amended by Article LIII, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 1. The senate shall consist of the members to which the several counties are entitled, on the following basis of representation according to the federal census: Each county having a population of 30,000 inhabitants or less shall have 1 senator; each county having a population of more than 30,000 inhabitants and less than 60,000 inhabitants shall have 2 senators; each county having a population of more than 60,000 inhabitants and less than 120,000 inhabitants shall have 3 senators; each county having a population of more than 120,000 and less than 240,000 inhabitants shall have 4 senators; and each county having a population of more than 240,000 inhabitants shall have 5 senators. For the purpose of representation, foreigners not naturalized and Indians not taxed shall

~~not be counted as inhabitants.~~ **The senate shall consist of 2 members from each county of the state.** The members of the senate shall be elected at the same time and for the same term as the representatives by the qualified electors of the counties which they shall respectively represent.'

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 provide for number of state senators?"

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 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.