

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 693

H. P. 1113

House of Representatives, February 14, 1951.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Brown of Baileyville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-ONE

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Providing for
Annual Sessions of the Legislature.**

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

Constitution, Article IV, Part First, § 2, amended. The 1st sentence of section 2 of Part First of Article IV of the constitution, as amended by Article XXV, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

‘The house of representatives shall consist of 151 members, to be elected by the qualified electors, and hold their office 2 years from the day next preceding the ~~biennial~~ annual meeting of the legislature.’

Constitution, Article IV, Part Third, § 1, amended. Section 1 of Part Third of Article IV of the constitution, as amended by Articles XXIII and XXXI, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

‘Sec. 1. The legislature shall convene on the 1st Wednesday of January, ~~biennially~~ annually for a period not exceeding 60 legislative days and, with the exceptions hereinafter stated, shall have full power to make and estab-

lish all reasonable laws and regulations for the defense and benefit of the people of this state, not repugnant to this constitution nor to that of the United States.'

Constitution, Article V, Part First, § 13, amended. Section 13 of Part First of Article V of the constitution, as amended by Article XXIII, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 13. He may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the legislature; and in cases of disagreement between the 2 houses with respect to the time of adjournment, adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper, not beyond the day of the next ~~biennial~~ annual meeting; and if, since the last adjournment, the place where the legislature were next to convene shall have become dangerous from an enemy or contagious sickness, may direct the session to be held at some other convenient place within the state.'

Constitution, Article V, Part Fourth, § 4, amended. Section 4 of Part Fourth of Article V of the constitution, as amended by Article XXIII, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 4. No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but by warrant from the governor and council, and in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published at the commencement of the ~~biennial~~ annual session of the legislature.'

Constitution, Article XXIII, 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 2 years from the 1st Wednesday in January next succeeding their election; and the legislature, at the 1st 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 biennial~~ to ~~biennial~~ annual sessions of the legislature.'

Effective date. Resolved: That the first meeting of the legislature under the amendments herein proposed, if adopted, shall be on the 1st Wednesday of January, 1953.

Form of question and date when amendments shall be voted upon. Resolved: That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the as-

sessors 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 amendments 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 annual sessions of the legislature?”

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the amendments voting “Yes” upon their ballots and those opposed to the amendments 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 amendments, the governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the amendments 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.