

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 528

H. P. 483

House of Representatives, February 8, 1955

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Files of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-FIVE

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Reduce the
Voting Age to Eighteen Years.**

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, Article II, Section 1, amended. The first sentence of Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Every citizen of the United States of the age of ~~twenty one~~ **eighteen** years and upwards, excepting paupers and persons under guardianship, having his or her residence established in this state for the term of six 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 three 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 three months after his or her removal therefrom, if he or she continues to reside in this state during such period, unless barred by the provisions of the second paragraph of this section; and the elections shall be by written ballot.'

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 reduce the voting age to eighteen years?”

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 to 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.