

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1138**

H. P. 990

House of Representatives, March 2, 1955

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Greenleaf of Boothbay Harbor.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-FIVE

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

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**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, Section 2, amended.** The 1st sentence of Section 2 of Part First of Article IV of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

'The house of representatives shall consist of one hundred and fifty-one members, to be elected by the qualified electors, and hold their office two years from the day next preceding the ~~biennial~~ **next annual** meeting of the legislature.'

**Constitution, Article IV, Part Third, Section 1, amended.** Section 1 of Part Third of Article IV of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

'**Section 1. Annual meetings and general powers.** The legislature shall convene on the first Wednesday of January ~~biennially~~ **annually for a period not extending beyond March twentieth**, and, with the exceptions hereinafter stated, shall have full power to make and establish 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, Section 13, amended.** Section 13 of Part First of Article V of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

'**Section 13. Extraordinary convening of legislative; adjournment of legislature in case of disagreement; changing meeting place of legislature.** He may,

on extraordinary occasions, convene the legislature; and in case of disagreement between the two 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 sessions to be held at some other convenient place within the state.'

**Constitution, Article V, Part Fourth, Section 4, amended.** Section 4 of Part Fourth of Article V of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

**'Section 4. Warrants required to draw money; publishing account of receipts and expenditures.** 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.'

**Form of question and date when amendments 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 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 limited annual sessions?"

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 and shall take effect on the 1st Wednesday of January, 1957.

**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.