

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1387**

S. P. 482

In Senate, March 21, 1957

Referred to Committee on Constitutional Amendments. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Low of Knox.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-SEVEN

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**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Changing the  
Tenure of Office of Senators to Four-Year Terms.**

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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 II, Section 4, amended.** The 1st sentence of Section 4 of Article II of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

'The election of Governor ~~senators~~ and representatives shall be on the second Monday of September biennially forever.'

**Constitution, Article IV, Part Second, Section 1, amended.** The last sentence of section 1 of Part Second of Article IV of the Constitution is hereby repealed and the following sentences enacted in place thereof, to read as follows:

'The members of the Senate shall be elected for a term of four years by the qualified electors of the counties which they shall respectively represent. The terms shall be disposed in such manner by the Legislature that the terms of at least one-third of such members shall precede or follow the terms of the remaining members.'

**Effective date. Resolved:** That the amendments herein proposed, if adopted, shall determine the term of office of Senators to be elected at the general election in September, 1960.

**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 Changing the Tenure of Office of Senators to Four-Year Terms?”

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.