

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

Eighty-first Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1923

Published by the Secretary of State, in accordance with the Resolves of the Legislature approved June 28, 1820, March 18, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

KENNEBEC JOURNAL PRINT SHOP
AUGUSTA, MAINE
1923

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Chapter 87, Resolves of 1921

Resolve, Proposing an Amendment to Section Five, Article Four, Part First, of the Constitution, as Amended by the Twenty-third Amendment, Relating to Absent Voting.

Resolved: Two-thirds of the legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the constitution of the State of Maine be proposed:

Section five, article four, part first, of the constitution of Maine as amended by the twenty-third amendment, is hereby further amended by striking out the word "present" in the fifth and thirty-fourth lines thereof, so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sec. 5. The meetings within this state for the choice of representatives shall be warned in due course of law by the selectmen of the several towns seven days at least before the election, and the selectmen thereof shall preside impartially at such meetings, receive the votes of all the qualified electors, sort, count and declare them in open meeting, and in the presence of the town clerk, who shall form a list of the persons voted for, with the number of votes for each person against his name, shall make a fair record thereof in the presence of the selectmen and in open town meeting. And the towns and plantations organized by law, belonging to any class herein provided, shall hold their meetings at the same time in the respective towns and plantations; and the town and plantation meetings in such towns and plantations shall be notified, held and regulated, the votes received, sorted, counted and declared in the same manner. And the assessors and clerks of plantations shall have all the powers, and be subject to all the duties, which selectmen and town clerks have, and are subject to by this constitution. And fair copies of the lists of votes shall be attested by the selectmen and town clerks of towns, and the assessors of plantations, and sealed up in open town and plantation meetings; and the town and plantation clerks respectively shall cause the same to be delivered into the secretary's office thirty days at least before the first Wednesday of January biennially. And the governor and council shall examine the return copies of such lists, and also all lists of votes of citizens in the military service, returned to the secretary's office, as provided in article second, section four, of this constitution; and twenty days before the said first Wednesday of January, biennially, shall issue a summons to such persons as shall appear to be elected by a plurality of all the votes returned, to attend and take their seats. But all such lists shall be laid before the house of representatives

on the first Wednesday of January biennially, and they shall finally determine who are elected. The electors resident in any city may, at any meeting duly notified for the choice of representatives, vote for such representatives in their respective ward meetings, and the wardens in said wards shall preside impartially at such meetings, receive the votes of all qualified electors, sort, count and declare them in open ward meetings, and in the presence of the ward clerk, who shall form a list of the persons voted for, with the number of votes for each person against his name, shall make a fair record thereof in the presence of the warden, and in open ward meetings; and a fair copy of this list shall be attested by the warden and ward clerk, sealed up in open ward meeting, and delivered to the city clerk within twenty-four hours after the close of the polls. And the electors resident in any city may at any meetings duly notified and holden for the choice of any other civil officers for whom they have been required heretofore to vote in town meeting, vote for such officers in their respective wards, and the same proceedings shall be had by the warden and ward clerk in each ward, as in the case of votes for representatives. And the aldermen of any city shall be in session within twenty-four hours after the close of the polls in such meetings, and in the presence of the city clerk shall open, examine and compare the copies from the lists of votes given in the several wards, of which the city clerk shall make a record, and return thereof shall be made into the secretary of state's office in the same manner as selectmen of towns are required to do.'

Resolved: That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations in 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, on the second Monday in September following the passage of this resolve, 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 allowing voters absent from voting districts on the day of election, to vote?"

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the amendment expressing it by the word "Yes" upon their ballots and those opposed to the amendment by the word "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, it shall thereupon become a part of the constitution, and the governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation.

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 resolves accompanied by a copy thereof.

(The forty-seventh amendment was proposed to the people by a resolve of the eightieth legislature, approved April 6, 1921, and having been favorably voted upon by the people at a special election held September 12, 1921, was, by proclamation of the governor, declared a part of the constitution, October 29, 1921.)