

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require That Members of the House and Senate Be Assigned Seats That Correlate with Each Member's District for the Purpose of Enhancing Communications and Reducing the Perception of Partisan Gridlock

Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two thirds of each branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendments to the Constitution of Maine be proposed:

Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. First, §2 is amended to read:

Section 2. Number of Representatives; biennial terms; division of the State into districts for House of Representatives. 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 first Wednesday in December following the general election. The Legislature which convenes in 1983 and every 10th year thereafter shall cause the State to be divided into districts for the choice of one Representative for each district. The number of Representatives shall be divided into the number of inhabitants of the State exclusive of foreigners not naturalized according to the latest Federal Decennial Census or a State Census previously ordered by the Legislature to coincide with the Federal Decennial Census, to determine a mean population figure for each Representative District. Each Representative District shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory and shall cross political subdivision lines the least number of times necessary to establish as nearly as practicable equally populated districts. Whenever the population of a municipality entitles it to more than one district, all whole districts shall be drawn within municipal boundaries. Any population remainder within the municipality shall be included in a district with contiguous territory and shall be kept intact.

A member must be assigned a seat that correlates with that member's district.

Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. Second, §1 is amended to read:

Section 1. Number of Senators. The Senate shall consist of an odd number of Senators, not less than 31 nor more than 35, elected at the same time and for the same term as Representatives by the qualified electors of the districts into which the State shall be from time to time divided.

A member must be assigned a seat that correlates with that member's district.

; and be it further

Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date. Resolved: That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

HP0513, LD 664, item 1, 123rd Maine State Legislature
RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require That Members
of the House and Senate Be Assigned Seats That Correlate with Each Member's District for
the Purpose of Enhancing Communications and Reducing the Perception of Partisan Gridlock

“Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require that members of the Senate and the House of Representatives be assigned seats that correlate with each member's district for the purpose of enhancing communications and reducing the perception of partisan gridlock?”

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below the word “Yes” or “No.” The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns. If it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it further

Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved: That the Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this resolution necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

SUMMARY

This constitutional resolution requires that members of the Senate and the House of Representatives be assigned seats that correlate with each member's district.