



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 153

LR 229(01)

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide for the Reduction of the Size of the Legislature

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Rep. Hinck of Portland

Committee: State and Local Government

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund
 Potential future biennium savings - General Fund
 Potential future biennium savings - Other Special Revenue Funds

Referendum Costs

Month/Year	Election Type	Question	Length
Nov-11	General	Referendum	Standard

The Secretary of State's budget includes sufficient funds to accommodate one ballot of average length for the general election in November. If the number or size of the referendum questions requires production and delivery of a second ballot, an additional appropriation of \$107,250 may be required.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

If approved by the voters, this constitutional amendment would reduce the House of Representatives membership from 151 to 101 members and the Senate membership from 35 to 23 beginning with the 2015 Legislature. This reduction would result in General Fund savings to the Legislature associated with 62 fewer legislators. The projected future savings for the legislative biennium are estimated to be \$2,665,231 in fiscal year 2014-15 and \$2,258,979 in fiscal year 2015-16. Some of these savings may be offset with one-time costs to renovate the House Chamber, which would depend on the extent of the renovation decided by the Legislative Council.

This reduction would also result in Other Special Revenue Funds savings of \$1,055,156 in fiscal year 2014-15 to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices due to reduced payments to qualifying candidates. This estimate assumes that there will be an increase in contested primary races in 2014 from the normal redistricting already occurring in 2013. It also assumes initial payment amounts to qualifying candidates will increase by 4% each election. Other Special Revenue Funds revenue to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices would also decrease by \$49,475 in fiscal year 2014-15 due to a reduction in qualifying contributions collected by participating candidates.