

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 Elect 2 Senators from Each  
County and To Increase the Senate Term from 2 to 4 Years**

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

**Constitution, Art. II, §4** is amended to read:

**Section 4. Time of state election; absentee voting.** The election of Senators and Representatives shall be on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November biennially ~~forever~~ except as provided in this Section. Beginning with the general election held in 2010, the election of Senators and the election of Governor shall be on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November every 4 years, except that the term of a Senator from an odd-numbered legislative district remains a 2-year term until 2012, after which time the election of all Senators must be held every 4 years. The Legislature under proper enactment shall authorize and provide for voting by citizens of the State absent therefrom in the Armed Forces of the United States or of this State and for voting by other citizens absent or physically incapacitated for reasons deemed sufficient.

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

**Section 1. Number of Senators.** The Senate shall consist of ~~an odd number of 32~~ 32 Senators, ~~not less than 31 nor more than 35, elected at the same time and for the same term as Representatives~~ as provided in Article II, Section 4 by the qualified electors of the districts into which the State shall be from time to time divided.

**Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. Second, §2, first ¶** is amended to read:

**Section 2. Submission of reapportionment plan to Secretary of Senate; Legislature's action on commission's plan; division of State into Senatorial Districts; division by Supreme Judicial Court.** The Legislature which shall convene in the year ~~1983~~ and every tenth year thereafter 2013 shall ~~causereapportion~~ causereapportion the State ~~to be divided into districts for the choice of a Senator from each district, using the same method as provided in Article IV, Part First, Section 2 for apportionment of Representative Districts~~ so that the Senate districts coincide with the counties of the State. The voters of each county shall vote for 2 Senators.

; 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:

"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to reduce the size of the Senate from no more than 35 members to 32 members and increase the Senate term from 2 years to 4 years, effective in the year 2010, and to reapportion Senatorial Districts to coincide with the counties of the State?"

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 resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to reduce the size of the Senate from no more than 35 members to 32 members and increase the Senate term from 2 years to 4 years. The resolution also requires the redrawing of district lines, to occur during the regularly scheduled redistricting following the decennial census. The redistricting will be done in 2013.