



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1012

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H.P. 648

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine Regarding the Timing of Judicial Review of the  
Determination of the Validity of Written Petitions**

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Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative SUPICA of Bangor.  
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and  
Representatives: BOYER of Poland, RIELLY of Westbrook, RUDNICKI of Fairfield,  
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, GROHOSKI of Hancock.

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

4 **Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. Third, §22** is amended to read:

5 **Section 22. Election officers and officials, how governed.** Until the Legislature  
6 shall enact further laws not inconsistent with the Constitution for applying the people's veto  
7 and direct initiative, the election officers and other officials shall be governed by the  
8 provisions of this Constitution and of the general law, supplemented by such reasonable  
9 action as may be necessary to render the preceding sections self executing. The Legislature  
10 may enact laws not inconsistent with the Constitution to establish procedures for  
11 determination of the validity of written petitions. Such laws shall include provision for  
12 judicial review of any determination, to be completed within 100 days from the ~~date of~~  
13 deadline for filing of a written petition in the office of the Secretary of State.

14 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date.**

15 **Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their  
16 respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding  
17 a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November following the  
18 passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed in this  
19 resolution by voting upon the following question:

20 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to change the time  
21 period for judicial review of the validity of written petitions from within  
22 100 days from the date of filing to within 100 days from the deadline for  
23 filing of a written petition in the office of the Secretary of State?"

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

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

### 35 **SUMMARY**

36 This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to change the time period  
37 for judicial review of the validity of written petitions from within 100 days from the date  
38 of filing to within 100 days from the deadline for filing of a written petition in the office of  
39 the Secretary of State.