



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1383

H.P. 962

House of Representatives, April 11, 2017

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine Regarding Early Voting**

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DENNO of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator CARPENTER of Aroostook and
Representatives: CARDONE of Bangor, CASÁS of Rockport, FARNSWORTH of Portland,
MALABY of Hancock, McELWEE of Caribou, PIERCE of Falmouth, Senators: BRAKEY of
Androscoggin, MIRAMANT of Knox.

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. II, §4** is amended to read:

5 **Section 4. Time of state election; absentee voting.** The election of Senators
6 and Representatives shall be on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November
7 biennially forever and the election of Governor shall be on the Tuesday following the first
8 Monday of November every 4 years. The Legislature by proper enactment may authorize
9 a process to allow qualified voters to vote at polling places in or outside their election
10 districts during the 15-day period immediately preceding an election and may, by proper
11 enactment, authorize other methods to facilitate voting during that period. The
12 Legislature ~~under~~ by proper enactment shall authorize and provide for voting by absentee
13 ballot by citizens of the State absent therefrom in the Armed Forces of the United States
14 or of this State and for voting by absentee ballot by other citizens ~~absent or physically~~
15 ~~incapacitated~~ for any reasons deemed sufficient.

16 ; and be it further

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

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

23 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to allow the
24 Legislature to authorize a process to allow qualified voters to vote at
25 polling places in or outside their election districts during the 15-day
26 period immediately preceding an election or to vote by another method
27 and to authorize voting by absentee ballot for any sufficient reason?"

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

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

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SUMMARY

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This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to authorize a process to allow qualified voters to vote at polling places in or outside their election districts during the 15-day period immediately preceding an election or to vote by another method and to allow absentee voting for any sufficient reason.

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