



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 80

S.P. 28

In Senate, January 20, 2015

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**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine To Lower the Age Requirement To Run for Legislative Office**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CHENETTE of Saco, RUSSELL of Portland.

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. First, §4, first ¶** is amended to read:

5           **Section 4. Qualifications; residency requirement.** No person shall be a  
6 member of the House of Representatives, unless the person shall, at the commencement  
7 of the period for which the person is elected, have been 5 years a citizen of the United  
8 States, have arrived at the age of ~~24~~ 18 years, have been a resident in this State one year;  
9 and for the 3 months next preceding the time of this person's election shall have been,  
10 and, during the period for which elected, shall continue to be a resident in the district  
11 which that person represents.

12           **Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. Second, §6** is amended to read:

13           **Section 6. Qualifications.** The Senators shall be ~~25~~ 21 years of age at the  
14 commencement of the term, for which they are elected, and in all other respects their  
15 qualifications shall be the same as those of the Representatives.

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 lower the age  
24 requirement for State Senators from 25 to 21 years of age and to lower  
25 the age requirement for State Representatives from 21 to 18 years of  
26 age?"

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

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

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## **SUMMARY**

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This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to provide for lowering the age requirements to serve in the Maine House of Representatives from 21 to 18 years of age

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and to serve in the Maine Senate from 25 to 21 years of age.

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