

Date: (Filing No. H-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " " to H.P. 542, L.D. 852, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Change the Length of Legislators' Terms to 4 Years"

Amend the resolution by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Change the Length of Senators' Terms to 4 Years'

Amend the resolution by striking out all of that part designated "Constitution, Art. II, §4" (page 1, lines 4 to 14 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

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

Section 4. Time of state election; absentee voting. The election of Senators and members of the House of Representatives shall be on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November biennially forever and the election of except as provided in this section. Beginning with the general election held in 2026 for Senators, the election of Senators and the Governor shall be on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November 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.'

Amend the resolution by striking out all of those parts designated "Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. First, §2" and "Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. First, §5" (page 1, lines 15 to 44 and page 2, lines 1 to 12 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

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

Section 1. Number of Senators; terms. The Senate shall consist of an odd number of Senators, not less than 31 nor more than 35, elected at the same time and for the same term as Representatives by the qualified electors of the districts into which the State shall be from time to time divided except that, beginning with the general election held in 2026, Senators are elected to 4-year terms as provided in Article II, Section 4.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Amend the resolution in that part designated "**Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. Second, §5**"
2 in §5 in the 3rd line (page 2, line 16 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "2024" and
3 inserting the following: '2026'

4 Amend the resolution in the question in the 2nd line (page 2, line 30 in L.D.) by striking
5 out the following: "and members of the House of Representatives"

6 Amend the resolution in the question in the last line (page 2, line 31 in L.D.) by striking
7 out the following: "2024" and inserting the following: '2026'

8 Amend the resolution by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
9 section number to read consecutively.

10

SUMMARY

11 This amendment amends the constitutional resolution to provide for an increase in the
12 length of the terms of State Senators from 2 years to 4 years, and not for members of the
13 House of Representatives. The amendment also provides that the change in length of terms
14 begins in 2026, not in 2024.

15

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

16

(See attached)