

## **127th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## **SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016**

**Legislative Document** 

No. 1680

H.P. 1150

House of Representatives, March 29, 2016

## **RESOLUTION, PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF MAINE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS IN THE LEGISLATURE**

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

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative DUNPHY of Embden. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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, §2 is amended to read:

5 Section 2. Number of Representatives; biennial terms; division of the 6 State into districts for House of Representatives. The House of Representatives shall consist of 151 members, except that, beginning with the 129th Legislature and 7 8 thereafter, the House of Representatives shall consist of 100 members, to be elected by 9 the qualified electors, and hold their office 2 years from the day next preceding the first 10 Wednesday in December following the general election. The Legislature which convenes 11 in 2013 2017, and also the Legislature which convenes in 2021 and every 10th year thereafter, shall cause the State to be divided into districts for the choice of one 12 Representative for each district. The number of Representatives shall be divided into the 13 14 number of inhabitants of the State exclusive of foreigners not naturalized according to the 15 latest Federal Decennial Census or a State Census previously ordered by the Legislature 16 to coincide with the Federal Decennial Census, to determine a mean population figure for each Representative District. Each Representative District shall be formed of contiguous 17 18 and compact territory and shall cross political subdivision lines the least number of times 19 necessary to establish as nearly as practicable equally populated districts. Whenever the 20 population of a municipality entitles it to more than one district, all whole districts shall 21 be drawn within municipal boundaries. Any population remainder within the 22 municipality shall be included in a district with contiguous territory and shall be kept 23 intact.

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

Section 1. Number of Senators. The Senate shall consist of an odd number of
Senators, not less than 31 nor more than 35, except that, beginning with the 129th
Legislature and thereafter, the Senate shall consist of 25 Senators, 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.

30 **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 2013 2017, and also the Legislature which shall convene in the year 2021 and every tenth year thereafter, shall cause 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.

38

; 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:

5 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to reduce the size of 6 the House of Representatives from 151 members to 100 members and to 7 reduce the size of the Senate from no more than 35 members and no 8 fewer than 31 members to 25 members, beginning with the Legislature 9 elected in 2018?"

10 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 11 square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and 12 13 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 14 review the returns. If it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the 15 amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment 16 becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it 17 18 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.

## 22 SUMMARY

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to reduce the size of the House of Representatives from 151 members to 100 members and the size of the Senate from no more than 35 members and no fewer than 31 members to 25 members, beginning with the Legislature elected in 2018.