

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1629

S.P. 646

In Senate, April 12, 2023

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Recognize the Right to Personal Privacy

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.

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

Constitution, Art. I, §1 is amended to read:

Section 1. Natural rights. All people are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and, liberty and personal privacy, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

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:

"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to explicitly recognize a natural right to personal privacy?"

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

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.

28 SUMMARY

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to recognize the people's natural, inherent and unalienable right to personal privacy.