"Enacted with Committee Amendment "A" as Resolves 1947, Chapter 37"

NINETY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document **No. 238**

S. P. 107 In Senate, January 28, 1947.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Bishop of Sagadahoc.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN

RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Providing for Additional Signers in Petitions for Referendum.

Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two-thirds of each branch of the legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the constitution of this state is hereby proposed:

Constitution, art. IV, part third, sec. 17, amended. Section 17 of part third of article IV of the constitution of the state is hereby amended to read as follows:

'**Sec. 17.** Upon written petition of not less than 10,000 electors **in each congressional district**, addressed to the governor and filed in the office of the secretary of state within 90 days after the recess of the legislature, requesting that one or more acts, bills, resolves or resolutions, or part or parts thereof passed by the legislature, but not then in effect by reason of the provisions of the preceding section, be referred to the people, such acts, bills, resolves or resolutions or part or parts thereof as are specified in such petition shall not take effect until 30 days after the governor shall have announced by public proclamation that the same have been ratified by a majority of the electors voting thereon at a general or special election. As soon as it appears that the effect of any act, bill, resolve or resolution or

part or parts thereof has been suspended by petition in manner aforesaid, the governor by public proclamation shall give notice thereof and of the time when such measure is to be voted on by the people, which shall be at the next general election not less than 60 days after such proclamation, or in case of no general election within 6 months thereafter the governor may, and if so requested in said written petition therefor, shall order such measure submitted to the people at a special election not less than 4 nor more than 6 months after his proclamation thereof.'

Form of question and date when amendment shall be voted upon. Resolved: That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations of this state, are hereby empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of senators and representatives at the next general or special state-wide election, to give in their votes upon the amendment proposed in the foregoing resolution, and the question shall be: "Shall the constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the legislature to provide for additional signers in petitions for referendum?" And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the amendment voting "Yes" upon their ballots and those opposed to the amendment voting "No" upon their ballots, and the ballots shall be received, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the office of the secretary of state in the same manner as votes for governor and members of the legislature, and the governor and council shall count the same, and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of the amendment, the governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the amendment shall thereupon as of the date of said proclamation become a part of the constitution.

Secretary of state shall prepare ballots. Resolved: That the secretary of state shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations, ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing resolve accompanied by a copy thereof.