

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1834

H.P. 1166

House of Representatives, April 27, 2023

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish an Officer on Tribal Relations

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and

Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, MOONEN of Portland, Senators:

BENNETT of Oxford, CARNEY of Cumberland, President JACKSON of Aroostook.

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. IX, §26 is enacted to read:

Section 26. Officer on Tribal Relations. The Officer on Tribal Relations must be chosen biennially by joint ballot of the Senators and Representatives in convention. A vacancy in this office that occurs when the Legislature is not in session may be filled by appointment by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate. The Officer on Tribal Relations shall endeavor to improve relations between the Indian tribes and the State.

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:

"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to establish an Officer on Tribal Relations who would be tasked with improving relations between the Indian tribes and the State?"

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.

30 SUMMARY

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to establish an Officer on Tribal Relations who is elected by the Legislature and tasked with improving relations between the Indian tribes and the State.