"Enacted as Resolves 1949, Chapter 99"

NINETY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document **No. 885**

H. P. 1571 House of Representatives, February 17, 1949.

Reported by Committee on Constitutional Revision and referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED FORTY-NINE

RESOLVE Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Empower the Legislature with the Consent of the People to Authorize the Issuance of State Bonds for any Purpose Stated in the Constitution.

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

Constitution, Art. IX, § 14, amended. Section 14 of article IX of the constitution, as amended by articles XXXV, XLI, XLII, XLIII, XLV, and LV, is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 14. The credit of the state shall not be directly or indirectly loaned in any case. The legislature shall not create any debt or debts, liability or liabilities, on behalf of the state, which shall singly, or in the aggregate, with previous debts and liabilities hereafter incurred at any one time, exceed $2,000,000, except **that the legislature, whenever 2/3 of both houses shall deem it necessary, may, by proper enactment ratified by a majority of the electors voting thereon at a general or special election, authorize the issuance of bonds on behalf of the state at such times and in such amounts as it may determine** for the purposes of building state highways, intrastate, interstate and international bridges; to suppress insurrection, to repel invasion or for the purposes of war; to provide for the payment of a bonus to

Maine soldiers and sailors in the war with Germany; or for the purposes of building and maintaining public wharves and for the establishment of adequate port facilities in the state of Maine; but this amendment shall not be construed to refer to any money that has been, or may be deposited with this state by the government of the United States, or to any fund which the state shall hold in trust for any Indian tribe.'

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 empower the legislature with the consent of the people to authorize the issuance of state bonds for any purpose stated in the constitution?" 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.