

127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 584

H.P. 408

House of Representatives, February 26, 2015

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Prohibit the Denial of Equal Rights Based on the Sex of an Individual

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative RUSSELL of Portland. Cosponsored by Senator VALENTINO of York and Representatives: BROOKS of Lewiston, BURSTEIN of Lincolnville, COOPER of Yarmouth, GRANT of Gardiner, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MELARAGNO of Auburn, ROTUNDO of Lewiston, SANBORN of Gorham. 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. I, §25** is enacted to read:

Section 25. Equality of rights. Equality of rights under the law may not be denied or abridged based on the sex of an individual.

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; and be it further

8 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date.** 9 **Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their 10 respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for 11 holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November 12 following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment 13 proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

14 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to prohibit the denial15 of equal rights based on sex?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question 16 and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding 17 square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and 18 19 declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of 20 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 21 amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment 22 23 becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it 24 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.

- SUMMARY
- 29 This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to prohibit the denial of 30 equal rights based on the sex of an individual.