

SENATE No. 96

Taken from the files of the preceding year at the request of Mr. Innes. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Eight.

RESOLUTIONS PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE PEOPLE AT THE BIENNIAL STATE ELECTION IN NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHT OF THE QUESTION OF THE DESIRABILITY OF THE GENERAL COURT RATIFYING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

1 *Resolved*, The Committee on Constitutional Law,
2 to which was referred the Message from the Governor
3 (Senate, No. 519) transmitting, in accordance with
4 the request of the Department of State, a certified
5 copy of a joint resolution of the Congress, entitled
6 "Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the
7 Constitution of the United States relating to the
8 terms of office of the President", accompanied by a
9 letter of the Honorable Acting Secretary of State
10 of the United States, and requesting action thereon
11 by the General Court, reports that in its opinion
12 said proposed amendment is meritorious, but respect-
13 fully calls to the attention of the General Court the
14 provisions of section eighteen of chapter fifty-three

15 of the General Laws, which provide in part: "It is
16 hereby declared to be the policy of the common-
17 wealth that the general court, when called upon to
18 act upon a proposed amendment to the federal con-
19 stitution, should defer action until the opinion of the
20 voters of the commonwealth has been taken, as herein
21 provided, relative to the wisdom and expediency of
22 ratifying the same"; accordingly be it

23 *Resolved*, That the vote on the ratification of the
24 proposed amendment be not taken at the present
25 session of the General Court but that it be referred
26 to the next General Court in order that the opinion
27 of the people as to the wisdom of ratifying said amend-
28 ment may be obtained by submission of the question
29 to the voters at the biennial state election in nineteen
30 hundred and forty-eight, under the provisions of said
31 section eighteen, and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the state secretary be directed to
33 place upon the official ballot to be used at the biennial
34 state election in nineteen hundred and forty-eight
35 the following question:— "Is it desirable that the
36 proposed amendment to the Constitution of the
37 United States relating to the terms of office of the
38 President be ratified by the General Court?"