

HOUSE . . . . No. 1287

By Mr. Connolly of Boston, petition of Charles H. McGlue for a legislative amendment of the Constitution providing for a division of the Commonwealth into single representative districts. Constitutional Law.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDING FOR THE DIVISION OF THE COMMONWEALTH INTO SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES THERETO BY THE GENERAL COURT.

1 A joint session of the Senate and House of Repre-  
2 sentatives hereby declares it to be expedient to alter  
3 the Constitution by the adoption of the following  
4 Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become  
5 a part of the Constitution, if similarly agreed to in  
6 a joint session of the next General Court and approved  
7 by the people at the state election next following:

8 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

9 Article XXI of the articles of amendment is hereby  
10 annulled and the following is adopted in place there-  
11 of:—

12 *Article XXI.* In the year nineteen hundred and  
13 fifty-one and every tenth year thereafter a census of

14 the inhabitants of each city and town shall be taken  
15 and a special enumeration shall be made of the legal  
16 voters. Said enumeration shall specify the number  
17 of such legal voters residing in each precinct of each  
18 city, and each precinct of each town. The enumera-  
19 tion aforesaid shall determine the division of the  
20 commonwealth into representative districts and the  
21 assignment of representatives thereto for the periods  
22 between the making of the special enumerations.  
23 The house of representatives shall consist of two  
24 hundred and forty members and the numerical unit  
25 determining a representative district shall be one  
26 two hundred and fortieth of the aforesaid special  
27 enumeration of legal voters. The general court shall,  
28 at its first session after the next preceding special  
29 enumeration, assign to each city in the common-  
30 wealth the number of representatives to which it is  
31 entitled, based upon the numerical unit determining  
32 a representative district. No city shall be allotted  
33 less than the number arrived at by dividing the total  
34 number of voters in the city by the numerical unit  
35 determining a representative district. The entire  
36 excess of voters in the cities shall be totalled and  
37 divided by the numerical unit, and the result ob-  
38 tained will determine the number of additional repre-  
39 sentative or representatives to which the cities are  
40 entitled. The general court shall assign such addi-  
41 tional representative or representatives to the city or  
42 cities of the commonwealth which have the largest  
43 excess until the excess quota of representatives is  
44 exhausted. In nineteen hundred and fifty-two and  
45 every tenth year thereafter, in December, each city  
46 of the commonwealth, by vote of its city council,  
47 shall make a new division of its territory into such

48 number of districts as the general court of that year  
49 has assigned them representatives. The boundaries  
50 of such districts shall be so arranged that the districts  
51 shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number  
52 of legal voters. The city clerk shall forthwith give  
53 written notice to the state secretary of the number  
54 and designations of the districts so established,  
55 together with an official copy of the description of  
56 said districts. The general court shall, at its second  
57 session after each next preceding special enumeration,  
58 divide the commonwealth into two hundred and forty  
59 representative districts of contiguous territory and  
60 assign to each district one representative, so that all  
61 the districts will be represented in the house equally,  
62 as nearly as may be, according to the number of legal  
63 voters therein; and such districts shall be formed  
64 without dividing a precinct of a town or district of a  
65 city and without uniting two counties or parts of  
66 two or more counties into one district. Every repre-  
67 sentative, for one year at least, next preceding his  
68 election shall have been an inhabitant of the district  
69 for which he is chosen and shall cease to represent  
70 such district when he shall cease to be an inhabitant  
71 of the commonwealth. The manner of calling and  
72 conducting the meetings for the choice of representa-  
73 tives, and of ascertaining their election, shall be as  
74 prescribed by law.

24 number of districts in the general count of the year  
 25 has remained those representatives. The boundaries  
 26 of each district shall be arranged that the districts  
 27 shall contain as nearly as may be an equal number  
 28 of legal voters. The city clerk shall forthwith give  
 29 written notice to the state secretary of the number  
 30 and boundaries of the districts as established.  
 31 together with an official copy of the description of  
 32 said districts. The general count shall at the second  
 33 year after each year mentioned special count shall  
 34 divide the counties into districts as nearly as may be  
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