

SENATE No. 173

To accompany the petition of Andrew P. Quigley for a legislative amendment to the Constitution providing that the Governor and other constitutional officers shall be elected quadrennially. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Three.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDING THAT THE GOVERNOR AND OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS BE ELECTED QUADRENNIALLY.

1 A majority of all the members elected to the Senate
2 and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby
3 declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution
4 by the adoption of the following Article of Amend-
5 ment, to the end that it may become a part of the
6 Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session
7 of the next General Court and approved by the people
8 at the state election next following]:

9 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

10 Article LXIV of the Amendments to the Consti-
11 tution is hereby amended by striking out section 1, as
12 amended by Article LXXX of said Amendments, and
13 inserting in place thereof the following section:—

14 *Section 1.* The governor, lieutenant-governor, coun-
15 cillors, secretary, treasurer and receiver-general, at-
16 torney-general and auditor shall be elected quadri-

17 ennially. The senators and representatives shall be
18 elected biennially. The terms of the governor, lieuten-
19 ant-governor and councillors shall begin at noon on
20 the Thursday next following the first Wednesday in
21 January succeeding their election, and shall end at
22 noon on the Thursday next following the first Wednes-
23 day in January in the fifth year following their elec-
24 tion. If the governor elect shall have died before the
25 qualification of the lieutenant-governor elect, the
26 lieutenant-governor elect upon qualification shall be-
27 come governor. If both the governor elect and the
28 lieutenant-governor elect shall have died both said
29 offices shall be deemed to be vacant and the provisions
30 of Article LV of the Amendments to the Constitution
31 shall apply. The terms of senators and representatives
32 shall begin with the first Wednesday in January suc-
33 ceeding their election, and shall extend to the first
34 Wednesday in January in the third year following
35 their election and until their successors are chosen
36 and qualified. The terms of the secretary, treasurer
37 and receiver-general, attorney-general and auditor,
38 shall begin with the third Wednesday in January suc-
39 ceeding their election, and shall extend to the third
40 Wednesday in January in the fifth year following their
41 election and until their successors are chosen and
42 qualified.