

HOUSE No. 1562

By Mr. Wondolowski of Worcester, petition of Charles H. McGlue for a legislative amendment to the Constitution providing for the division of the Commonwealth into forty-one senatorial districts and the assignment of senators thereto by the General Court. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDING FOR THE DIVISION BY THE COMMONWEALTH INTO FORTY-ONE SENATORIAL DISTRICTS AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF SENATORS THERETO BY THE GENERAL COURT.

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 XXII of the articles of amendment is hereby
11 annulled and the following is adopted in place thereof: —

12 *Article XXII.* In the year nineteen hundred and
13 sixty and every tenth year thereafter a special enumer-
14 ation of the legal voters of each city and town shall
15 be taken by the secretary of the commonwealth not
16 later than the first Wednesday of March in said year.
17 The said special enumeration of legal voters shall be
18 the basis for determining the senatorial districts for the
19 ensuing ten year period beginning with the first Wednes-
20 day in the third January following said special enumer-

21 ation; provided that the present districts shall continue
22 in effect until the first Wednesday in January in the year
23 nineteen hundred and sixty-three. The senate shall
24 consist of forty-one members. The general court during
25 the regular session in the same year in which the special
26 enumeration is to be made, shall divide the common-
27 wealth into forty-one districts of contiguous territory,
28 each district to contain, as nearly as may be, an equal
29 number of legal voters, according to said enumeration;
30 provided, however, that no town, and no city that
31 contains less than sixty-five thousand voters, shall be
32 divided therefor.

33 This division into forty-one senatorial districts of
34 contiguous territory shall be completed by the general
35 court not later than the first Wednesday of July in
36 said year. Each district shall elect one senator, who
37 shall have been an inhabitant of this commonwealth
38 five years at least immediately preceding his election,
39 and at the time of his election shall be an inhabitant of
40 the district for which he is chosen; and he shall cease to
41 represent such senatorial district when he shall cease
42 to be an inhabitant of the commonwealth.