
By Mr. Glaser of Malden, petition of Charles H. McGlue for a legislative amendment to the Constitution providing for the division of the Commonwealth into single representative districts and the assignment of representatives thereto by the General Court. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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 thereof: —
11 *Article XXI.* — In the year nineteen hundred and
12 sixty and every tenth year thereafter a census of the
13 inhabitants of each city and town shall be taken and a
14 special enumeration shall be made of the legal voters.
15 Said special enumeration shall specify the number of
16 such legal voters residing in each precinct of each city,
17 and each precinct of each town. Each special enumera-
18 tion shall be the basis for determining the representative
19 districts for the ten year period beginning with the first

20 Wednesday in the third January following said special
21 enumeration; provided that the present districts shall
22 continue in effect until the first Wednesday in January
23 in the year nineteen hundred and sixty-three. The house
24 of representatives shall consist of two hundred and forty
25 members and the numerical unit determining a represent-
26 ative district shall be one two hundredth and fortieth of
27 the aforesaid special enumeration of legal voters.

28 The House of Representatives shall, at its first session
29 after the next preceding special enumeration, proceed as
30 soon as may be, to divide the commonwealth into repre-
31 sentative districts of contiguous territory and assign rep-
32 resentatives thereto, so that each representative will rep-
33 resent an equal number of legal voters as nearly as may
34 be; and such districts shall be so formed that no town
35 containing less than eight thousand inhabitants accord-
36 ing to said census, no precinct of any other town and no
37 precinct of a ward of a city shall be divided therefor, nor
38 shall any district be made which shall be entitled to elect
39 more than one representative.

40 The boundaries of such districts shall be so arranged
41 that the districts shall contain, as nearly as may be, an
42 equal number of legal voters. The clerk of the House
43 of Representatives shall forthwith give written notice to
44 the state secretary of the number and designations of
45 the districts so established, together with an official copy
46 of the description of said districts.

47 Every representative, for one year at least, next pre-
48 ceding his election shall have been an inhabitant of the
49 district for which he is chosen and shall cease to represent
50 such district when he shall cease to be an inhabitant of
51 the commonwealth. The manner of calling and conduct-
52 ing the meetings for the choice of representatives, and of
53 ascertaining their election, shall be as prescribed by law.