
To accompany the petition of Silvio O. Conte for a legislative amendment to the Constitution providing that the Lieutenant-Governor be the presiding officer of the Senate. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDING THAT THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR BE THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE SENATE.

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 by
4 the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to
5 the end that it may become a part of the Constitution
6 [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next
7 General Court and approved by the people at the state
8 election next following]:

9 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

10 SECTION 1. Article VII of section II of chapter I of
11 the Constitution is hereby annulled, and the following
12 article adopted in place thereof:—

13 *Article VII.* The senate shall in the absence of the
14 lieutenant-governor, choose a president pro tempore,
15 and shall appoint its own officers, and determine its
16 own rules of proceedings.

1 SECTION 2. Article II of section II of chapter II of
2 the Constitution is hereby amended by adding at the
3 end the following sentence:— The lieutenant-governor
4 shall be the presiding officer of the senate, but shall have
5 no vote therein, except in cases where it is necessary to
6 dissolve a tie vote.

