
By Mr. Chadwick of Winchester, petition of Harrison Chadwick for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to provide for reducing to one hundred and sixty the number of representatives in the House of Representatives through the method of electing four representatives from each senatorial district. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT THE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GENERAL COURT BE REDUCED TO ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY AND THAT FOUR REPRESENTATIVES BE ELECTED FROM EACH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.

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

8 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

9 ARTICLE LXXXII. Article XXI of the Articles of Amend-
10 ment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, as amended
11 by Article LXXI of the Articles of Amendment, is hereby fur-
12 ther amended by striking out the final paragraph, and inserting
13 in place thereof the following:—

14 The house of representatives, from the first Wednesday in
15 January in the year nineteen hundred and sixty-nine, shall
16 consist of one hundred and sixty members. The general court

17 shall, at its first regular session after the return of the special
18 enumeration of nineteen hundred and sixty-five, and at its first
19 regular session after the return of each special enumeration
20 thereafter, divide the commonwealth into one hundred and
21 sixty districts of contiguous territory such that there shall be
22 four districts in each district formed for representation in the
23 senate. Each district shall contain, as nearly as may be, one
24 quarter of the number of legal voters in the senatorial district
25 of which it is a part, according to the special enumeration; and
26 such districts shall be so formed that no town containing less
27 than twelve thousand inhabitants according to the census, no
28 precinct of any other town and no ward of a city shall be divided
29 therefor. The general court may by law limit the time within
30 which judicial proceedings may be instituted calling in question
31 any such division. Each district shall elect one representative.
32 Every representative, for one year at least immediately pre-
33 ceding his election, shall have been an inhabitant of the district
34 for which he is chosen, and shall cease to represent such district
35 when he shall cease to be an inhabitant of the commonwealth.
36 Districts established in the year nineteen hundred and fifty-
37 six shall continue in effect until the first Wednesday in January
38 in the year nineteen hundred and sixty-nine.