

# SENATE . . . . . No. 26

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To accompany the petition of Gaspar G. Bacon for the appointment of a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study the initiative and referendum provisions of the Constitution with a view to simplifying questions submitted to the voters thereunder and to eliminating certain inconsistencies therein. Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-One.

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Resolve providing for an Investigation with a View to Improving the Procedure under the Initiative and Referendum Provisions of the Constitution for the Purpose of Rendering Questions submitted thereunder More Understandable to the Voters and of Eliminating Certain Inconsistencies in Said Provisions.

1 *Resolved*, That a special unpaid commission to  
2 consist of one senator to be designated by the  
3 president of the senate, three representatives to be  
4 designated by the speaker of the house of repre-  
5 sentatives, and three other members to be ap-  
6 pointed by the governor, with the advice and con-  
7 sent of the council, is hereby established for the  
8 purpose of studying the initiative and referendum  
9 provisions of the constitution of the commonwealth  
10 and their operation during the twelve years since  
11 their adoption, with a view to such changes therein

12 as may render questions submitted thereunder more  
13 intelligible and understandable to the voters, to  
14 the elimination of conflicts and inconsistencies in  
15 said provisions and to the more effective accom-  
16 plishment of the purposes for which said provisions  
17 were adopted by the people. The commission shall  
18 also consider the advisability of restoring to the  
19 constitution the provisions of the forty-second  
20 article of amendment authorizing the general court  
21 to submit to the voters for their approval or re-  
22 jection any act or resolve of the general court or  
23 any part or parts thereof. The commission shall  
24 be provided with quarters in the state house, may  
25 hold hearings and may expend, for clerical and  
26 other assistance, from such appropriation, not ex-  
27 ceeding                                 dollars, as may be made, such  
28 sums as may be approved by the governor and  
29 council. Said commission shall report to the gen-  
30 eral court by filing its recommendations, with drafts  
31 of such proposed amendments to the constitution  
32 as may be necessary to give effect to the same, with  
33 the clerk of the senate on or before the first  
34 Wednesday in December of the current year.



