

HOUSE No. 462

At the request of Mr. Staves of Southbridge, the petition of Edward W. Staves that the Department of Public Works be authorized to construct a state highway in the town of Charlton to a point in the town of East Brookfield, was taken from the files of the preceding year. Highways and Motor Vehicles.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to provide for the Construction of a State Highway from Charlton City in the Town of Charlton to a Certain Point in the Town of East Brookfield.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The department of public works is hereby author-
2 ized and directed to construct a state highway from
3 Charlton city in the town of Charlton to connect
4 with the state highway in the town of East Brook-
5 field, formerly known as the Boston-Springfield
6 highway, and may spend such sum, not exceeding
7 dollars, as may hereafter be appropriated.

The Constitution of the United States

In the first place, it is to be observed that the Constitution is not a mere declaration of principles, but a practical and operative instrument. It is a law, and as such it is binding upon all the people of the United States. It is the supreme law of the land, and all other laws made in conformity with it are valid, but all laws made in violation of it are void. It is the basis of all our political institutions, and it is the duty of every citizen to know its contents and to abide by its provisions.

The Constitution is divided into seven articles. The first three articles relate to the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the government, respectively. The last four articles relate to the states, the territories, and the property of the United States. The first article vests the executive power in the President of the United States, who is elected for a term of four years. The second article vests the legislative power in the Congress, which consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The third article vests the judicial power in the Supreme Court and in such inferior courts as may be established by Congress. The fourth article relates to the states, and provides that no state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; nor shall it engage in war, unless actually attacked; nor shall it obstruct commerce with other states, or the United States; nor shall it give its aid to any state against the United States. The fifth article relates to the territories, and provides that Congress may admit new states into the Union, and may dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property of the United States. The sixth article is the supremacy clause, which provides that the Constitution, the laws of the United States, and the treaties made under its authority, shall be the supreme law of the land. The seventh article provides that the Constitution shall take effect when ratified by nine of the thirteen original states.

