

# SENATE . . . . No. 541

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[Senate, No. 541. Offered by Senator Quigley.]

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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### RESOLUTIONS CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND WEEKLY PRESS ASSOCIATION UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

1     *Whereas*, A priceless contribution of New England  
2 to our country was the founding of towns and the  
3 framing of laws for their administration, out of which  
4 was wrought, by experience, the matchless mechanism  
5 of the town meeting, an institution peculiar to New  
6 England, universally recognized by all students of  
7 government as pure democracy, and lavishly praised  
8 by DeTocqueville, and by Jefferson and others  
9 amongst the wisest of our country; and

10    *Whereas*, The New England town meeting was  
11 eminently successful because it governed in local  
12 affairs, instructed its ordinary citizens in public  
13 administration, and was conducted in a comparatively  
14 small community where each person was well known  
15 as to character and ability by all his neighbors; and

16    *Whereas*, A changing world has seen the town  
17 meeting system of government in its one time purity  
18 slowly wane in its influence, and a new form of limited  
19 town meeting, wherein representatives perform the

20 functions formerly resting on the entire body of  
21 voters, has emerged; and

22 *Whereas*, Now more than ever before it is the duty  
23 of all citizens diligently to concern themselves with  
24 the administration of their local governments; and  
25 a source of complete and unbiased information is  
26 indispensable for intelligent action by the citizenry;  
27 and

28 *Whereas*, A town newspaper is the incarnation of  
29 the town spirit, and a free and independent press is  
30 one of the strongest bulwarks of our democratic  
31 form of government; and

32 *Whereas*, The New England Weekly Press Asso-  
33 ciation, the only regional newspaper organization of  
34 its kind in the United States, was formed to encourage  
35 and promote the business of publishing weekly town  
36 newspapers in New England, to foster the improve-  
37 ment of such newspapers so that they may continue  
38 to serve the community and to preserve the tradition  
39 of the New England town spirit, and to safeguard  
40 the fundamental rights and interests of the citizens  
41 who must depend on their own local papers for in-  
42 formation; therefore be it

43 *Resolved*, That the senate of Massachusetts ex-  
44 tends its sincere congratulations to the New England  
45 Weekly Press Association upon the occasion of its first  
46 anniversary, and its best wishes for many years of  
47 unselfish service to the communities of New England  
48 in encouraging and promoting the development of  
49 "grass root" newspapers; and be it further

50 *Resolved*, That an engrossed copy of these resolu-  
51 tions be forwarded by the secretary of the common-  
52 wealth to the New England Weekly Press Association.