

By Mr. Vaitses of Melrose, petition of Theodore J. Vaitses for adoption of resolutions by the General Court requesting Congress to call a convention for proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to give thirty-six states power to amend said Constitution without the intervention of Congress. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLUTIONS REQUESTING CONGRESS TO CALL A CONVENTION FOR PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO GIVE TO THIRTY-SIX STATES FULL POWER TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF CONGRESS.

1 *Resolved*, That the general court of Massachusetts, acting
2 in pursuance of Article V of the Constitution of the United
3 States, hereby requests the Congress of the United States that
4 it call a convention under said Article for the purpose of pro-
5 posing an Amendment to said constitution, as follows: —

6 ARTICLE

7 *Section 1.* The Congress, whenever two thirds of both
8 houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to
9 this Constitution, or on the application of the legislatures of
10 two thirds of the several states shall call a convention for pro-
11 posing amendments; or the legislature of any state, whenever
12 two thirds of each house shall deem it necessary, may propose
13 amendments to this Constitution by transmitting to the sec-
14 retary of state of the United States, and to the secretary of
15 state of each of the several states, a certified copy of the
16 resolution proposing the amendment, which shall be deemed
18 submitted to the several states for ratification when certified
19 copies of resolutions of the legislatures of any twelve of the
20 several states by two thirds of each house shall have been so

21 transmitted concurring in the proposal of such amendment;
22 which, in any case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as
23 part of this Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of
24 three fourths of the several states; provided, that no state,
25 without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in
26 the senate.

27 *Section 2.* The act of proposal, concurrence in a proposal,
28 or ratification of an amendment, shall not be revocable.

29 *Section 3.* A proposal of an amendment by a state shall
30 be inoperative unless it shall have been so concurred in within
31 seven years from the date of the proposal. A proposed
32 amendment shall be inoperative unless it shall have been so
33 ratified within fifteen years from the date of its submission,
34 or shorter period as may be prescribed in the resolution pro-
35 posing the amendment.

36 *Section 4.* Controversies respecting the validity of an
37 amendment shall be justifiable and shall be determined by
38 the exercise of the judicial power of the United States; and
39 be it further

40 *Resolved,* That the Congress of the United States be, and
41 it hereby is, requested to propose as the mode of ratification
42 of said amendment that it shall be valid to all intents and
43 purposes, as part of the Constitution of the United States,
44 when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several
45 states; and be it further

46 *Resolved,* That the secretary of the commonwealth be,
47 and he hereby is, directed to send a duly certified copy of these
48 resolutions to the President of the United States and to the
49 presiding officer of each branch of the Congress of the United
50 States and to each member thereof from this commonwealth.