By Mr. Buczko of Salem (by request), petition of John Beresford Hatch for the repeal of a resolve of nineteen hundred and fifty-seven relative to the indictment, trial, conviction and execution of Ann Pudeator and certain other persons for witchcraft in the year sixteen hundred and ninety-two. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty.

Resolve providing that the General Court repeal a resolve of nineteen hundred and fifty-seven relative to the indictment, trial, conviction and execution of Ann Pudeator and certain other persons for "witchcraft" in the year sixteen hundred and ninety-two.

1 Whereas, Bad Law is generally considered to be worse than No Law, in that it tends to degrade all jurisprudence, and foster disrespect for constituted authority; and

2 Whereas, Deceptive Legislation is the Worst Sort of Bad Law, in that it constitutes a Fraud on Society, which, when exposed, may bring the whole system of government into disrepute; and

3 Whereas, The rights, powers, duties and prerogatives of Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of Government in Massachusetts are clearly defined in the Constitution of the Commonwealth; and

4 Whereas, These respective rights, powers, duties, and prerogatives are fixed by our fundamental law, any Trespass by one Branch on any other is a reprehensible wrong; and

5 Whereas, The Legislative Branch of Government has clearly Trespassed on the Prerogatives of the Judicial in enacting into Law a Resolve in re "... the Indictment, Trial, Conviction of Ann Pudeator and certain other persons for 'Witchcraft' in the year Sixteen Hundred and Ninety-two," and

6 Whereas, This Resolve, Chapter one hundred and forty-five, Resolves of the General Court, nineteen hundred and fifty-seven,
relating to matters clearly beyond the Scope and Powers of the Massachusetts General Court, tends to make Massachusetts jurisprudence a Laughing Stock in the eyes of Enlightened Society all around the world; and

Whereas, This Legislative Witches' Brew indelibly incorporated into Massachusetts Law not only does a disservice to traditions of the Great and General Court, but holds every Citizen of the Commonwealth up to universal ridicule and derision; and

Whereas, Public Opinion, almost unanimously, agrees that the so-called Salem Witches were illegally tried, convicted and executed under auspices of a Court lacking any jurisdiction whatever, but

Whereas, The Trials, Convictions, and Executions were done in the name of a Foreign Power then the Legal Government of Massachusetts, however irregularly, neither Massachusetts nor the United States can unilaterally undo the injustice; and

Whereas, It is almost universally conceded that Two Wrongs do not make a Right, or any Number for that matter; and

Whereas, It is desirable that belated justice should be done the Salem Witch Suspects and the Descendants, but in a Legal Manner, not by means which are a mockery of jurisprudence, if not a mimicry of the tactics employed by the Witch Hunters of sixteen hundred and ninety-two and sixteen hundred and ninety-three.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Chapter one hundred and forty-five, Resolves of nineteen hundred and fifty-seven, here-with be rescinded, repealed, and removed from the pages of our positive Law.