

HOUSE No. 2055

By Mr. DeNormandie of Lincoln, petition of James DeNormandie for a legislative amendment to the Constitution providing four year terms for constitutional officers. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
PROVIDING FOUR YEAR TERMS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS.

1 A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House
2 of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be ex-
3 pedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following
4 Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of
5 the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the
6 next General Court and approved by the people at the state
7 election next following]:

8 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

9 Art. . . . Article LXIV of the articles of amendment,
10 as amended by Article LXXX, is hereby annulled and the
11 following article is adopted in place thereof:—

12 *Section 1.* The governor, lieutenant-governor, councillors,
13 secretary, treasurer and receiver-general, attorney general, and
14 auditor shall be elected quadrennially. Senators and repre-
15 sentatives shall be elected biennially. The terms of the governor,
16 lieutenant-governor and councillors shall begin at noon on the
17 Thursday next following the first Wednesday in January suc-
18 ceeding their election and shall end at noon on the Thursday
19 next following the first Wednesday in January in the fifth year
20 following their election. If the governor elect shall have died
21 before the qualification of the lieutenant-governor elect, the
22 lieutenant-governor elect, upon qualification shall become gov-

23 error. If both the governor elect and the lieutenant-governor
24 elect shall have died both said offices shall be deemed to be vacant
25 and the provisions of Article LV of the Amendments to the
26 Constitution shall apply. The terms of senators and representa-
27 tives shall begin with the first Wednesday in January succeeding
28 their election and shall extend to the first Wednesday in January
29 in the third year following their election and until their successors
30 are chosen and qualified. The terms of the secretary, treasurer
31 and receiver-general, attorney-general and auditor, shall begin
32 with the third Wednesday in January succeeding their election
33 and shall extend to the third Wednesday in January in the fifth
34 year following their election and until their successors are chosen
35 and qualified.

36 *Section 2.* The general court shall assemble every year on the
37 first Wednesday in January.

38 *Section 3.* The first election to which this article shall apply
39 shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in
40 November in the year nineteen hundred and sixty-four. There-
41 after elections for the choice of senators and representatives
42 shall be held biennially on the Tuesday next after the first
43 Monday in November, and for such other elected officials shall
44 be held quadrennially on the Tuesday next after the first Monday
45 in November.