

[Similar Matter Filed During Past Session —
See Senate No. 271 of 1979]

SENATE No. 355

By Mr. Hall, a petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 355) of Robert A. Hall for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to provide for a special election to fill vacancies in constitutional offices. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES IN CERTAIN
CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES.

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

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

Article XVII of the Amendments to the Constitution is hereby annulled and the following is adopted in place thereof: —

If for any reason the office of secretary, treasurer and receiver-general, auditor, or attorney-general shall become vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by a special election, and the person so chosen shall serve the remainder of the term. In such case the primary election shall be held on the last Tuesday within ninety days of the occurrence of said vacancy and the election shall be held four weeks after the primary election; provided, however, that no such special election shall be held if a regular election shall fall within three hundred days of the occurrence of said vacancy. During the term of any such vacancy in any of the aforementioned offices, such office shall be administered as provided by law.

