

By Mrs. Murray of Cohasset, petition of Mary Jeanette Murray for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to reducing the time for adoption of amendments to the Constitution. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Two.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION REDUCING THE TIME FOR ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

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

8 **ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.**

9 ART. . SECTION 1. Article XLVIII of the Articles of
10 Amendment to the Constitution is hereby amended by striking out
11 Section 2 of Part 3 under the heading "*The Initiative*", and insert-
12 ing in place thereof the following: —

13 *Section 2. Legislative Substitutes.* — The general court may, by
14 resolution passed by yea and nay vote, either by the two houses
15 separately, or in the case of a constitution amendment by a majori-
16 ty of those voting thereon in joint session as hereinafter provided,
17 submit to the people a substitute for any measure introduced by
18 initiative petition, such substitute to be designated on the ballot as
19 the legislative substitute for an initiative measure and to be
20 grouped with it as an alternative therefor.

1 SECTION 2. Said Article is hereby further amended by strik-
2 ing out section 4 of Part 4 under the heading "*The Initiative*", and
3 inserting in place thereof the following: —

4 *Section 4. Legislative Action.* — Final legislative action in the
5 joint session upon any amendment shall be taken only by call of the
6 yeas and nays, which shall be entered upon the journals of the two
7 houses; and an unfavorable vote at any stage preceding final action
8 shall be verified by call of the yeas and nays, to be entered in like
9 manner.

1 SECTION 3. Said Article is hereby further amended by strik-
2 ing out section 5 of said Part 4, and inserting in place thereof the
3 following: —

4 *Section 5. Submission to the People.* — If a legislative amend-
5 ment be agreed to in joint session by a majority of all the members
6 elected, or if an initiative amendment or a legislative substitute
7 shall receive the affirmative votes of at least one-fourth of all the
8 members elected, such fact shall be certified by the clerk of such
9 joint session to the secretary of the commonwealth, who shall
10 submit the amendment to the people at the next state election.
11 Such amendment shall become part of the constitution if ap-
12 proved, in the case of a legislative amendment, by a majority of the
13 voters voting thereon, or if approved, in the case of an initiative
14 amendment or a legislative substitute, by voters equal in number to
15 at least thirty percent of the total number of ballots cast at such
16 state election and also by a majority of the voters voting on such
17 amendment.