

By Mr. Lussier of Pittsfield, petition of Thomas R. Lussier for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to the powers of the General Court in relation to taxation. Taxation.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION RELATIVE TO THE POWERS OF THE GENERAL COURT IN RELATION TO TAXATION.

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 *Section 1.* Article 4 of Section 1 of Chapter 1 of Part the second  
10 is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting  
11 in place thereof the following paragraph: —

12 And further, full power and authority are hereby given and  
13 granted to the said general court, from time to time, to make,  
14 ordain, and establish, all manners of wholesome and reasonable  
15 orders, laws, statutes, and ordinances, directions and instructions,  
16 either with penalties or without; so as the same be not repugnant or  
17 contrary to this constitution, as they shall judge to be for the good  
18 and welfare of this commonwealth, and for the government and  
19 ordering thereof, and of the subjects of the same, and for the

20 necessary support and defense of the government thereof; and to  
21 name and settle annually, or provide by fixed laws, for the naming  
22 and settling all civil officers within the said commonwealth; the  
23 election and constitution of whom are not hereafter in this form of  
24 government otherwise provided for; and to set forth the several  
25 duties, powers and limits, or the several civil and military officers  
26 of this commonwealth, and the forms of such oaths or affirmations  
27 as shall be respectively administered unto them for the execution of  
28 their several offices and places, so as the same be not repugnant or  
29 contrary to this constitution; and to impose and levy just and  
30 equitable assessments, rates and taxes upon all the inhabitants of,  
31 persons resident in and estates lying within the commonwealth and  
32 upon the incomes and properties thereof, and also to impose and  
33 levy, reasonable duties and excises, upon any produce, goods,  
34 wares, merchandise, and commodities, whatsoever brought into,  
35 produced, manufactured, or being within the same; to be issued  
36 and disposed of by warrant, under the hand of the governor of this  
37 commonwealth for the time being, with the advice and consent of  
38 the council, for the public service, in the necessary defense and  
39 support of the government of the said commonwealth, and the  
40 protection and preservation of the subjects thereof, according to  
41 such acts as are or shall be in force within the same.

42 *Section 2.* Article XLIV of the Amendments to the Constitution  
43 is hereby annulled.