

# HOUSE . . . . No. 955

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Resolve accompanying the petition of Charles H. Morrill for a more equitable and proportional representation in the House of Representatives, for the recall of the members thereof and to abolish the Senate. Constitutional Amendments. January 19.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifteen.

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### RESOLVE

Providing for an Amendment of the Constitution relative to Representation in the House of Representatives and abolishing the Senate.

1 *Resolved*, That it is expedient to alter the constitu-  
2 tion of the commonwealth by the adoption of the sub-  
3 joined article of amendment; and that the said article,  
4 being agreed to by a majority of the senators and two  
5 thirds of the members of the house of representatives  
6 present and voting thereon, be entered on the journals  
7 of both houses, with the yeas and nays taken thereon,  
8 and be referred to the general court next to be chosen;  
9 and that the said article be published, to the end that  
10 if agreed to in the manner provided by the constitution,  
11 by the general court next to be chosen, it may be sub-  
12 mitted to the people for their approval and ratification,  
13 in order that it may become a part of the constitution  
14 of the commonwealth.

## ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

15 The house of representatives shall have the power to  
16 provide that any or all of its members may be nomi-  
17 nated, or elected, either by districts or from the com-  
18 monwealth at large, or in some other manner, so that  
19 the members thereof shall reflect as fully as possible the  
20 political, governmental and industrial opinions of all  
21 electors or voters, and, except as hereinafter provided,  
22 the membership shall consist of two hundred and forty.  
23 Each political party, or other organization within the  
24 body politic, or a requisite number of independent voters  
25 as herein specified, shall at each session of the house  
26 be represented therein, as equally as may be, in the  
27 exact proportion that the combined number of votes  
28 cast for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of the  
29 commonwealth, treasurer and receiver general, auditor  
30 and attorney-general, bearing its designation at the last  
31 general state election next preceding the assembling of  
32 any session of the house, bears to the combined total  
33 number of votes cast for all the candidates for the said  
34 offices at the aforesaid election.

35 For the purpose of securing equitable and propor-  
36 tional representation as herein provided, the common-  
37 wealth may be redistricted or the basis of representation  
38 for nomination or election may be established, changed  
39 or cancelled at any time; but when so established,  
40 changed or cancelled at any period other than that  
41 specified in section twenty-one, the number of legal  
42 voters in the commonwealth, or in any subdivision  
43 thereof, shall be considered to be that shown at the last pre-  
44 ceding decennial census taken as provided for in section  
45 twenty-one, together with a per centum added thereto  
46 for each year or major fraction of a year which may have

47 elapsed since the enumeration, which annual per centum  
48 or major fraction shall be one tenth of the decennial in-  
49 crease shown by such enumeration, and a like tenth  
50 additional shall be added thereto in lieu of the real growth  
51 of the remaining portion of the calendar year then  
52 current. And in allotting the representation, — where  
53 election is determined otherwise than by districts, — a  
54 residue of a major fraction of the basis of representa-  
55 tion, cast for each party, or group, or candidate whose  
56 name is not contained in a group, shall be given repre-  
57 sentation; after which the minor fractions cast for each  
58 party, group, or candidate whose name is not contained  
59 in a group shall be combined into one total, and if such  
60 total equals or exceeds fifty per centum of the basis of  
61 representation an additional member shall be given to the  
62 party, or group, or candidate whose name is not con-  
63 tained in a group, receiving the larger of the said minor  
64 fractions; and the house membership may if necessary  
65 be increased in number for such purposes.

66 In case of the failure of the house to take final action  
67 on any matter owing to a deadlock or tie vote, such  
68 matter shall be submitted for final decision to the voters  
69 of the state or such portion or portions thereof as may  
70 be affected thereby, at the next regular general election,  
71 unless the house orders a special election held for such  
72 purpose previous to such general election. If a ma-  
73 jority of the voters adopt such matter it shall take effect  
74 thirty days thereafter unless another date is designated  
75 therein.

76 The house of representatives shall make provision for  
77 the recall from office of its members by a referendum  
78 upon the initiative of a number of electors or voters  
79 not exceeding twenty-five per centum of the required  
80 basis of representation.

