

HOUSE No. 757

By Mr. Birmingham of Boston, petition of Charles H. McGlue for a legislative amendment of the Constitution providing for a division of the Commonwealth into senatorial districts by the General Court. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Nine.

Proposal for a Legislative Amendment of the Constitution providing for the Division of the Commonwealth into Senatorial Districts by the General Court.

1 A joint session of the senate and house of repre-
2 sentatives hereby declares it to be expedient to alter
3 the constitution by the adoption of the following
4 article of amendment, to the end that it may become
5 a part of the constitution, if similarly agreed to in a
6 joint session of the next general court and approved
7 by the people at the state election next following:

8 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

9 Article XXII of the articles of amendment is
10 hereby annulled and the following is adopted in
11 place thereof:

12 Article XXII. In the year nineteen hundred and
13 thirty-four and every tenth year thereafter a census
14 of the inhabitants of each city and town shall be
15 taken and a special enumeration shall be made of
16 the legal voters. Said enumeration shall specify the
17 number of such legal voters residing in each ward of
18 each city. The enumeration aforesaid shall deter-

19 mine the apportionment of the senators for the
20 periods between the making of the special enumera-
21 tions. The senate shall consist of forty members.
22 The general court shall, at its first session after each
23 next preceding special enumeration, divide the com-
24 monwealth into forty districts of adjacent territory,
25 each district to contain, as nearly as may be, an
26 equal number of legal voters, according to the enu-
27 meration aforesaid; provided, that such districts shall
28 be formed without dividing a town or a city unless a
29 city has more legal voters than the numerical unit
30 for senatorial districts, in which case the city so
31 affected shall be entitled to one or more complete
32 senatorial districts entirely within its geographical
33 limits; the ward or wards containing the excess
34 number of voters shall be united to contiguous terri-
35 tory to form other senatorial districts. These dis-
36 tricts shall be formed, as nearly as may be, without
37 uniting two counties or parts of two or more counties
38 into one district. The districts shall be numbered by
39 the commission creating the same, and a description
40 of each, with the number thereof and the number of
41 legal voters therein, shall be returned by the commis-
42 sion to the secretary of the commonwealth and to the
43 clerk of every town in such district, to be filed and
44 kept in their respective offices. Each district shall
45 elect one senator, who shall have been an inhabitant
46 of this commonwealth five years at least immediately
47 preceding his election, and at the time of his election
48 shall be an inhabitant of the district for which he is
49 chosen; and he shall cease to represent such sena-
50 torial district when he shall cease to be an inhabitant
51 of the commonwealth.

