

SENATE No. 135.

[To accompany the petition of the mayor of the city of Boston for an amendment of the constitution establishing a debt limit for cities and towns. Constitutional Amendments.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred.

RESOLVE

Providing for an Amendment to the Constitution, establishing a Debt Limit for Cities and Towns.

1 *Resolved*, That it is expedient to alter the constitu-
2 tion of this 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 referred to the general court next to be chosen; and
9 that the said article be published, to the end that, if
10 agreed to in the manner provided by the constitution, by
11 the general court next to be chosen, it may be submitted
12 to the people for their approval and ratification, in order

13 that it may become a part of the constitution of the
14 Commonwealth.

ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT.

15 Cities by ordinary vote of the city council, and towns
16 by ordinary vote of the inhabitants in town meeting,
17 may incur debts for loans in anticipation of the taxes of
18 the year in which such debts are incurred and expressly
19 made payable therefrom by the vote aforesaid; other
20 debts shall be incurred for such term of years as shall be
21 specified in the vote only by vote of two-thirds of the
22 members present and voting at a town meeting, or two-
23 thirds of all the members of each branch of the city
24 council taken by yeas and nays and approved by the
25 mayor, or if he disapprove such vote, by another like
26 vote taken after notice of such disapproval, which notice
27 shall be given within ten days from the day on which
28 the vote of the city council is laid before the mayor, and
29 if the mayor fails to give such notice to the branch of
30 the city council in which such vote was first taken he
31 shall be deemed to approve such vote: *provided, however,*
32 that no city or town shall become indebted for an amount
33 which, exclusive of debts heretofore issued in aid of a
34 railroad corporation or of a fire district, or heretofore
35 authorized outside the debt limit of a city or town,
36 or heretofore or hereafter authorized for a water supply,
37 and after deducting the sinking funds for all other debts
38 exceeds two and one-half per centum of the average of
39 the assessors' valuations of the taxable property therein
40 for the preceding three years, the valuation for each year
41 being first reduced by the amount of all abatements
42 allowed thereon prior to the thirty-first day of December
43 in the year preceding such assessment, unless the debt in
44 excess of such amount shall be authorized by four-fifths

45 of all the members of each branch of the legislature taken
46 by yeas and nays and approved by the governor, or, if
47 he disapprove such vote, by another like vote taken after
48 notice of such disapproval, which notice shall be given
49 within ten days from the time in which the vote of the
50 legislature was laid before the governor, and if the gov-
51 ernor fails to give such notice to the branch of the legis-
52 lature in which such vote was first taken he shall be
53 deemed to approve such vote.

