

By Mr. Gould of Blackstone, petition of Harold D. Gould, Jr., and Joseph J. Semensi for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to provide that Representative districts shall be established without regard to county boundaries. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Eight.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS SHALL BE ESTABLISHED WITHOUT REGARD TO COUNTY BOUNDARIES.

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

8 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

9 ART. . Article XXI of the Articles of Amendment to  
10 the Constitution of the Commonwealth, as amended by Arti-  
11 cle LXXI of the Articles of Amendment, is hereby further  
12 amended by striking out the last paragraph and inserting in  
13 place thereof the following paragraph:—The house of rep-  
14 resentatives shall consist of two hundred and forty members  
15 which shall be apportioned by the legislature at its first session  
16 after the return of each enumeration as aforesaid into districts.  
17 Such districts shall be equal, as nearly as may be, according  
18 to their relative numbers of legal voters, as ascertained by the  
19 next preceding special enumeration. Said districts shall be of  
20 contiguous territory and so formed that no town or ward of  
21 a city shall be divided therefor. Every representative, for one  
22 year at least next preceding his election, shall have been an  
23 inhabitant of the district for which he is chosen and shall  
24 cease to represent such district when he shall cease to be an

25 inhabitant of the commonwealth. The districts shall be num-  
 26 bered by the legislature when created and a description of  
 27 each, with the numbers thereof and the numbers of legal voters  
 28 therein, shall be forwarded by the legislature to the secretary  
 29 of the commonwealth and to the clerk of every town in each  
 30 district, to be filed and kept in their respective offices. The  
 31 manner of calling and conducting the meetings for the choice  
 32 of representatives, and of ascertaining their election, shall be  
 33 prescribed by law.