

By Mr. Bulger of Boston, petition of Thomas F. Brownell and William M. Bulger for a legislative amendment to the Constitution providing for initiative petitions. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Nine

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION  
PROVIDING FOR INITIATIVE PETITIONS.

1 A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and  
2 House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it  
3 to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of  
4 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 Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of  
10 the Commonwealth is hereby amended by striking out section  
11 3 under the heading "THE INITIATIVE, II, *Initiative Peti-*  
12 *tions*", amended by Article LXXIV of the said Amendments,  
13 and inserting in place thereof the following:—

14 SECTION 3. *Mode of Originating.*—Such petition shall first  
15 be signed by ten qualified voters of the commonwealth and  
16 shall be submitted to the attorney-general not later than the  
17 first Wednesday of the August before the assembling of the  
18 general court into which it is to be introduced, and if he shall  
19 certify that the measure and the title thereof are in proper  
20 form for submission to the people, and that the measure is  
21 not, either affirmatively or negatively, substantially the same  
22 as any measure which has been qualified for submission or

23 submitted to the people at either of the two preceding  
24 biennial state elections, and that it contains only subjects not  
25 excluded from the popular initiative and which are related or  
26 which are mutually dependent, it may then be filed with the  
27 secretary of the commonwealth. The secretary of the com-  
28 monwealth shall provide blanks for the use of subsequent  
29 signers, and shall print at the top of each blank a fair, concise  
30 summary, as determined by the attorney-general, of the  
31 proposed measure as such summary will appear on the ballot  
32 together with the names and residences of the first ten  
33 signers. All initiative petitions, with the first ten signatures  
34 attached, shall be filed with the secretary of the common-  
35 wealth not earlier than the first Wednesday of the September  
36 before the assembling of the general court into which they are  
37 to be introduced, and the remainder of the required signa-  
38 tures shall be filed not later than the first Wednesday of the  
39 following March.