

Taken from the files, at the request of Mr. Bartley of Holyoke (having received the necessary vote required under the provisions of the Constitution in joint session of the two Houses of the preceding General Court, see House, No. 1206 of 1968) and referred to the committee on 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 A CENSUS OF THE POPULATION IN THE YEAR NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-ONE AND THE APPORTIONMENT, ON THE BASIS OF SAID CENSUS, OF THE COMMONWEALTH INTO TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY EQUAL REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS AND FORTY EQUAL SENATORIAL DISTRICTS.

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

8 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

9 ARTICLE . . . *Section 1.* In the year nineteen hundred and  
10 seventy-one and every tenth year thereafter a census of the in-  
11 habitants of each city and town shall be taken. Said census  
12 shall specify the number of inhabitants residing in each precinct  
13 of each town and in each precinct and ward of each city. Said  
14 census shall be the basis for determining the representative  
15 districts for the ten year period beginning with the first Wed-  
16 nesday in the fourth January following the taking of said census;  
17 provided that such districts as established in the year nineteen  
18 hundred and sixty-eight shall continue until the first Wednesday  
19 in January in the year nineteen hundred and seventy-five.

20 The house of representatives shall consist of two hundred  
21 and forty members. The general court shall, at its first regular  
22 session after the year in which said census was taken, divide  
23 the commonwealth into two hundred and forty representative  
24 districts of contiguous territory so that each representative  
25 will represent an equal number of inhabitants, as nearly as may  
26 be; and such districts shall be formed, as nearly as may be,  
27 without uniting two counties or parts of two or more counties,  
28 two towns or parts of two or more towns, two cities or parts  
29 of two or more cities, or a city and a town, or parts of cities and  
30 towns, into one district: provided, however, that the county  
31 of Dukes county and Nantucket county shall each be a repre-  
32 sentative district. Such districts shall also be so formed that  
33 no town containing less than six thousand inhabitants accord-  
34 ing to said census shall be divided. The general court may by  
35 law limit the time within which judicial proceedings may be  
36 instituted calling in question any such division. Every repre-  
37 sentative, for one year at least immediately preceding his elec-  
38 tion, shall have been an inhabitant of the district for which he is  
39 chosen, and shall cease to represent such district when he shall  
40 cease to be an inhabitant of the commonwealth. The manner  
41 of calling and conducting the elections for the choice of repre-  
42 sentatives, and of ascertaining their election, shall be prescribed  
43 by law.

44 *Section 2.* Each census of inhabitants required in section  
45 one shall likewise be the basis for determining the senatorial  
46 districts and also the councillor districts for the ten year period  
47 beginning with the first Wednesday in the fourth January  
48 following the taking of such census; provided that such dis-  
49 tricts as established prior to the year nineteen hundred and  
50 seventy-one shall continue until the first Wednesday in January  
51 in the year nineteen hundred and seventy-five. The senate  
52 shall consist of forty members. The general court shall, at its  
53 first regular session after the year in which said census is taken,  
54 divide the commonwealth into forty districts of contiguous  
55 territory, each district to contain, as nearly as may be, an equal  
56 number of inhabitants according to said census; and such  
57 districts shall be formed, as nearly as may be, without uniting  
58 two counties, or parts of two or more counties, into one district.  
59 The general court may by law limit the time within which  
60 judicial proceedings may be instituted calling in question such

61 division. Each district shall elect one senator, who shall have  
62 been an inhabitant of this commonwealth five years at least  
63 immediately preceding his election, and at the time of his election  
64 shall be an inhabitant of the district for which he is chosen; and  
65 he shall cease to represent such senatorial district when he shall  
66 cease to be an inhabitant of the commonwealth.

67 *Section 3.* Articles XXI and XXII of the Amendments to  
68 the Constitution, as appearing in Article LXXI of said Amend-  
69 ments, are hereby annulled.

The first part of the report deals with the general  
 condition of the country and the progress of the  
 various branches of industry. It is found that  
 the country is in a state of general depression  
 and that the various branches of industry are  
 all suffering. The principal cause of this  
 depression is the falling price of cotton  
 and the consequent loss of the cotton  
 plantations. The price of cotton has fallen  
 from 15 cents per pound to 10 cents per  
 pound, and the cotton plantations are  
 consequently suffering. The price of  
 sugar has also fallen, and the sugar  
 plantations are suffering. The price of  
 rice has also fallen, and the rice  
 plantations are suffering. The price of  
 indigo has also fallen, and the indigo  
 plantations are suffering. The price of  
 opium has also fallen, and the opium  
 plantations are suffering. The price of  
 betel nut has also fallen, and the betel  
 nut plantations are suffering. The price  
 of pepper has also fallen, and the pepper  
 plantations are suffering. The price of  
 gambier has also fallen, and the gambier  
 plantations are suffering. The price of  
 camellia oil has also fallen, and the  
 camellia oil plantations are suffering.

The second part of the report deals with the  
 condition of the various branches of industry.  
 It is found that the various branches of  
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The third part of the report deals with the  
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