

By Mr. MacLean of Fairhaven, petition of William Q. MacLean, Jr., for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to increasing the number of signatures required for a legislative change by initiative petition. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Seven.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR A
LEGISLATIVE LAW CHANGE BY INITIATIVE PETITION.

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

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

1 **ARTICLE CV.**

2 Section 1 of that part of Article XLVIII under
3 the heading "The Initiative. V. Legislative Action on Proposed
4 Laws" as most recently amended is hereby further amended by
5 striking out said section and inserting in place thereof the
6 following:—

7 *Section 1. Legislative Procedure.*— If an initiative petition for
8 a law is introduced into the general court, signed in the aggregate
9 by not less than such number of voters as will equal five per cent
10 of the entire vote cast for governor at the preceding biennial state
11 election, a vote shall be taken by yeas and nays in both houses
12 before the first Wednesday of May upon the enactment of such
13 law in the form in which it stands in such petition. If the general
14 court fails to enact such a law before the first Wednesday of May,
15 and if such petition is completed by filing with the secretary of
16 tyhe commonwealth, not earlier than the first Wednesday of the
17 following June nor later than the first Wednesday of the

18 following July, a number of signatures of qualified voters equal in
19 number to not less than one per cent of the entire vote cast for
20 governor at the preceding biennial state election, in addition to
21 those signing such initiative petition, which signatures must have
22 been obtained after the first Wednesday of May aforesaid, then
23 the secretary of the commonwealth shall submit such proposed
24 law to the people at the next state election. If it shall be approved
25 by voters equal in number to at least thirty per cent of the total
26 number of ballots cast at such state election and also by a
27 majority of the voters voting on such law, it shall become law,
28 and shall take effect in thirty days after such state election or at
29 such time after such election as may be provided in such law.