

By Mr. Hynes of Marshfield, petition of Frank M. Hynes for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to require biennial state budgets. Ways and Means (joint).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Three.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO REQUIRE BIENNIAL STATE BUDGETS.

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

8 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

9 Article XLVIII of the Amendments of the Constitution of the
10 Commonwealth is hereby amended by striking out sections 2, 3
11 and 4 and inserting in place thereof the following new sections:—

12 Section 2. The Budget. Within three weeks after the convening
13 of the general court the governor shall in each even-numbered
14 year recommend to the general court a biennial budget which shall
15 contain a statement of all proposed expenditures for the fiscal year
16 and for the ensuing fiscal year, including those already authorized
17 by law, and of all taxes, revenues, loans and other means by which
18 such expenditures shall be defrayed. In the first year of the term
19 of office of a governor who has not served in the preceding year
20 said governor shall recommend such budget within eight weeks
21 after the convening of the general court. The budget shall be
22 arranged in such form as the general court may by law prescribe,
23 or, in default thereof, as the governor shall determine. For the pur-
24 pose of preparing his budget, the governor shall have the power to

25 require any board, commission, officer or department to furnish
26 him with any information he may deem necessary.

27 Section 3. The Biennial Appropriation Bill. All appropriations
28 based upon the budget to be paid from taxes or revenues shall be
29 incorporated in a single bill which shall be called the biennial
30 appropriation bill. The general court may increase, decrease, add
31 or omit items in the budget. The general court may provide for its
32 salaries, mileage, and expenses and for necessary expenditures in
33 anticipation of appropriations, but before final action on the bien-
34 nial appropriation bill it shall not enact any other appropriation
35 bill except on recommendation of the governor. The governor may
36 at any time recommend to the general court supplementary bud-
37 gets which shall be subject to the same procedures as the original
38 budget.

39 Section 4. Special Appropriation Bills. After final action on the
40 biennial appropriation bill or on recommendations of the gov-
41 ernor, special appropriation bills may be enacted. Such bills shall
42 provide the specific means for defraying the appropriations
43 therein contained.