

By Mr. Robinson of Melrose, petition of William G. Robinson and other members of the General Court for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to requiring voter approval of certain state and local bonds. Ways and Means (Joint).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

**PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
REQUIRING VOTER APPROVAL OF CERTAIN STATE AND LOCAL BONDS.**

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

8 **ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.**

9 Article . Section 1. No law authorizing the Commonwealth to
10 borrow money pursuant to the provisions of section 3 of Amend-
11 ment Art. 62, where the amount to be borrowed exceeds the sum of
12 ten million dollars, shall take effect until said law shall have been
13 submitted to the people at a general or special election and
14 approved by voters equal in number to at least thirty percent of the
15 total number of persons voting at such state election and also by a
16 majority of the voters voting on such question.

17 Section 2. No city, town, county or other local or regional
18 governmental body shall borrow money pursuant to the provisions
19 of any general or special law, where the amount to be borrowed
20 exceeds one quarter of one percent of the most recent equalized

21 evaluation of said city, town, county or other local or regional
22 governmental body or one million dollars, whichever is less, until
23 said borrowing shall have been submitted to the voters of said city,
24 town, county or other local or regional governmental body at a
25 regular or special election and approved by said voters equal in
26 number to at least thirty percent of the total number of ballots cast
27 at such election and also by a majority of the voters voting on such
28 question. The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to
29 the borrowing of money in anticipation of receipts from taxes or
30 other sources, such loan to be paid out of the revenue of the year in
31 which it is created. A city, town, county or other local or regional
32 governmental body may call a special election for the purpose of
33 complying with the provisions of this section.