

HOUSE No. 759

Accompanying the petition of Daniel J. Kiley for the submission to the voters of all cities and towns lying within twelve miles of the State House of the question of creating a greater Boston. Metropolitan Affairs. January 16.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Three.

AN ACT

To provide for the Submission to the Voters the Question of creating a Greater Boston by either Annexation or Confederation of Cities and Towns lying within Twelve Miles of the State House.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The question of creating a greater Boston
2 by direct annexation of all the cities and towns lying
3 wholly or partly within twelve miles of the state house,
4 or if not direct annexation, the confederation of the said
5 cities and towns into a greater Boston with independent
6 municipal boroughs constituted on geographical lines as
7 now existing, shall be submitted to the voters of all said
8 cities and towns including Boston, on the day of the
9 state election in November, nineteen hundred and
10 twenty-four, as hereinafter provided, and all legal voters
11 of each of the said cities and towns sought to be annexed
12 or confederated shall be qualified to vote thereon.

1 SECTION 2. The secretary of the commonwealth, in
2 the preparation of the ballots for such election, shall cause
3 to be printed thereon in brief form a statement of the
4 questions so submitted, followed by the words yes and no;
5 and the secretary is hereby authorized and directed to
6 provide sufficient ballots at the polling places of the said
7 cities and towns for all the voters qualified to participate
8 in the said election. The first question so submitted shall
9 be as follows:—

10 Do you believe in direct annexation of all cities and
11 towns within twelve miles of the state house into one
12 municipality, with one city government?

13 Question number two as follows:—

14 If you do not favor direct annexation into one mu-
15 nicipality, do you favor the creation of a confederation of
16 the said cities and towns into greater Boston, each city
17 and town having a separate borough council to govern
18 on all matters except those exclusively metropolitan, in
19 which case a metropolitan council representing each city
20 and town shall have full power and control?

21 Question number three as follows:—

22 If opposed to the principle contained in both of the
23 previous questions, do you favor the retention of the
24 present system of governing the said cities and towns?

1 SECTION 3. If it shall appear by the vote cast at the
2 said election when duly computed and certified, that five
3 eighths of all the legal voters voting on said question
4 have voted in favor of either annexation or confederation,
5 the secretary of the commonwealth shall make due publi-
6 cation of the same, and in addition thereto shall notify
7 the mayors and city councils of the said cities, and the
8 selectmen of the said towns included within the radius
9 mentioned in section one, and within sixty days there-

10 after the governor of the commonwealth shall appoint a
11 commission of nine members which shall be known as a
12 metropolitan charter commission, whose duty it shall be
13 to examine into all the laws, ordinances and regulations
14 governing the various cities and towns comprising the
15 greater city, and the said commission shall report to the
16 legislature at its first session thereafter, a charter for the
17 government of the greater city of Boston.

18 The compensation of the members of the said commis-
19 sion shall be fixed by the governor and council, and the
20 expenses of the commission not to exceed fifty thousand
21 dollars shall be paid from the treasury of the common-
22 wealth. The said charter commission in prosecuting its
23 work shall in its discretion appoint such experts and other
24 assistants as may be necessary, and all such employees
25 and experts are hereby exempt from the laws relating to
26 the civil service. The charter commission may lay out
27 the said consolidated or greater city into such municipal
28 wards, boroughs or subdivisions as in their judgment may
29 best meet the requirements of the greater city.

1 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

