

HOUSE No. 785.

[Resolve accompanying the petition of James F. Carey for an amendment of the Constitution requiring the submission to the people of matters pending before the general court in certain cases. Constitutional Amendments. Feb. 4.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and One.

RESOLVE

To provide for an Amendment of the Constitution requiring the Submission to the People, upon Petition of Twenty-five Thousand Voters, of Measures pending before the General Court.

1 *Resolved*, That it is expedient to alter the constitution
2 of the Commonwealth by the adoption of the subjoined
3 article of amendment; and that the article being agreed
4 to by a majority of the senators and two-thirds of the
5 members of the house of representatives present and
6 voting thereon, be entered on the journals of both houses,
7 with the yeas and nays taken thereon, and referred to
8 the general court next to be chosen; and that the said
9 article be published, to the end that if agreed to in the
10 manner provided by the constitution by the general

11 court next to be chosen, it may be submitted to the
12 people for their approval in order that it may become a
13 part of the constitution of the Commonwealth.

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

14 ARTICLE . Whenever twenty-five thousand or more
15 voters of the Commonwealth, certified to be such by the
16 clerk of the city or town of their residence, shall so
17 petition the general court, it shall be the duty of the
18 general court to submit any measure then pending there-
19 in, or in either branch thereof, to be voted upon by the
20 people at the next state election, or, if the general court
21 so determine, at a special election held for that purpose.
22 And the measure shall thereupon, if approved by a
23 majority of the voters voting thereon, become, and take
24 effect as a law of the state. Otherwise it shall not
25 become a law. Notwithstanding such petition, the
26 measure which is to be submitted to the people shall
27 take its ordinary course in the general court, and be
28 acted upon as if it were to be determined finally in the
29 general court; but the action of the general court in
30 respect thereto shall be regarded only as an expression
31 of the opinion of the general court and shall not have
32 the force of law.