

HOUSE....No. 88.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 13, 1854.

The Joint Special Committee on Amendments to the Constitution, Report the accompanying Resolves, providing for certain Amendments to the Constitution.

By order of the Committee,

N. A. THOMPSON,

Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Four.

RESOLVE

Providing for an Amendment to the Constitution in relation to
Districting the State for Legislative purposes.

Resolved, by both Houses, (the same being agreed to by a majority of Senators and two-thirds of the members of the House of Representatives, present and voting thereon):—

That it is expedient to alter the Constitution of this Commonwealth, by adopting the subjoined Article of Amendment, and that the same, as thus agreed to, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses, with the yeas and nays taken thereon, and referred to the general court next to be chosen, and that the same be published; to the end that if agreed to by the general court next to be chosen, in manner provided by the Constitution, it may be submitted to the people for their ratification, in order that it may become part of the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

1 A census of the inhabitants of each city and town on
2 the first day of May, shall be taken and returned into the
3 office of the secretary of the Commonwealth, on or before

4 the last day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred
5 and fifty-five, and of every tenth year thereafter. In the
6 census aforesaid, a special enumeration shall be made of the
7 male citizens twenty-one years of age and upwards, (ex-
8 cepting paupers and persons under guardianship;) and in
9 each city said enumeration shall specify the number of such
10 citizens aforesaid residing in each street, court, avenue, and
11 ward of such city. The enumeration aforesaid, shall deter-
12 mine the apportionment of Senators and Representatives
13 for the term of ten years.

14 The Senate shall consist of forty members. The general
15 court shall, at its first session after each next preceding
16 special enumeration, divide the Commonwealth into forty
17 Districts of contiguous territory, each district to contain, as
18 nearly as may be, an equal number of male citizens, twenty-
19 one years of age, and upwards, according to the enumera-
20 tion aforesaid: *provided*, that no town or ward of a city
21 shall be divided therefor, and such districts shall be formed
22 as nearly as may be, without uniting two counties or parts
23 of two or more counties into one district. Each district
24 shall elect one senator, who shall have been an inhabitant
25 of this Commonwealth five years at least, immediately
26 preceding his election, and at the time of his election,
27 shall be an inhabitant of the district for which he is chosen,
28 and he shall cease to represent such Senatorial District
29 when he shall cease to be an inhabitant of the Common-
30 wealth.

31 Not less than twenty-one senators shall constitute a
32 quorum for doing business, but a less number may organize
33 temporarily, adjourn from day to day, and compel the
34 attendance of absent members.

35 The House of Representatives shall consist of two hun-
36 dred and forty members, which shall be apportioned by the
37 legislature at its first session after the return of each enu-
38 meration as aforesaid, to the several counties of the Common-
39 wealth, equally as nearly as may be, according to their
40 relative numbers of male citizens twenty-one years of age,
41 and upwards, as ascertained by the next preceding special
42 enumeration; and the town of Cohasset, in the county of
43 Norfolk, shall, for this purpose, as well as in the formation
44 of districts, as herein after provided, be considered a part of
45 the county of Plymouth; and it shall be the duty of the
46 secretary of the Commonwealth to certify, as soon as may
47 be after it is determined by the legislature, the number of
48 representatives to which each county shall be entitled, to
49 the Board authorized to divide each county into Rep-
50 resentative Districts.

51 The mayor and aldermen of the city of Boston, the
52 county commissioners of other counties than Suffolk, or
53 in lieu of the county commissioners in each county other
54 than Suffolk, such board of special commissioners in each
55 county, to be elected by the people of the county or of
56 the towns therein, as may for that purpose be provided by
57 law, shall on the first Tuesday of August next, after
58 each assignment of representatives to each county, assem-
59 ble at a shire town of their respective counties, and pro-
60 ceed, as soon as may be, to divide the same into Represen-
61 tative Districts of contiguous territory, so as to apportion
62 the representation assigned to each county equally, as
63 nearly as may be according to the relative number of male
64 citizens twenty-one years of age and upwards, in the several
65 districts of each county, and such districts shall be so
66 formed that no town or ward of a city shall be divided

67 therefor, nor shall any district be made which shall be en-
68 titled to elect more than three representatives. Every
69 representative, for one year at least next preceding his elec-
70 tion, shall have been an inhabitant of the district for which
71 he is chosen, and shall cease to represent such district
72 when he shall cease to be an inhabitant of the Common-
73 wealth.

74 The districts in each county shall be numbered by the
75 Board creating the same, and a description of each, with the
76 numbers thereof, and the number of male citizens twenty-
77 one years of age and upwards, therein, shall be returned by
78 the Board to the secretary of the Commonwealth, to the
79 county treasurer of each county, and to the clerk of every
80 town in each district, to be filed and kept in their respective
81 offices.

82 The manner of calling and conducting the meetings for
83 the choice of representatives, and of ascertaining their
84 election, shall be prescribed by law.

85 Not less than one hundred members of the House of
86 Representatives shall constitute a quorum for doing busi-
87 ness.

