

HOUSE No. 1191

Resolve accompanying the petition of Charles H. Morrill for an amendment of the Constitution establishing a more equitable and proportional representation in the General Court. Constitutional Amendments. January 19.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixteen.

RESOLVE

To provide for a More Equitable and Proportional Representation in the House of Representatives, and to abolish the Senate.

1 *Resolved*, That the following amendment to the consti-
2 tution of the commonwealth, being agreed to by a ma-
3 jority of the senators and two thirds of the members of
4 the house of representatives present and voting thereon,
5 be entered on the journals of both houses, with the yeas
6 and nays taken thereon, and referred to the general
7 court next to be chosen; and that the said article be
8 published, to the end that if agreed to in the manner
9 provided by the constitution by the general court next
10 to be chosen, it may be submitted to the people for their
11 approval and ratification, in order that it may become a
12 part of the constitution of the commonwealth.

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

13 The house of representatives shall have full power and
14 authority to provide that any or all of its members may
15 be nominated, or elected, either by districts or from the
16 commonwealth at large, or in some other manner, so that
17 the members thereof shall reflect as fully as possible the
18 political, governmental and industrial opinions of all
19 electors or voters, and, except as hereinafter provided, the
20 membership shall consist of two hundred and forty.
21 Each political party, or other organization within the
22 body politic or a requisite number of independent voters
23 as herein specified, shall at each session of the house of
24 representatives be represented therein, as equally as may
25 be, in the exact proportion that the combined number of
26 votes cast for governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary of
27 the commonwealth, treasurer and receiver general,
28 auditor and attorney-general, bearing its designation at
29 the last general state election next preceding the as-
30 sembling of any session of the house, bears to the com-
31 bined total number of votes cast for all the candidates
32 for the said offices at the aforesaid election.

33 For the purpose of securing equitable and proportional
34 representation as herein provided, the commonwealth
35 may be redistricted, in whole or in part, or the basis of
36 representation for nomination or election may be es-
37 tablished, changed or cancelled at any time; but when
38 so established, changed or cancelled at any period, other
39 than that specified in article twenty-one of the articles of
40 amendment to the constitution of the commonwealth, the
41 number of legal voters in the commonwealth, or in any
42 subdivision thereof, shall be considered to be that shown
43 at the last preceding decennial census taken as provided
44 for in said article twenty-one, together with a per centum

45 added thereto for each year or major fraction of a year
46 which may have elapsed since the said enumeration,
47 which annual per centum shall be one tenth of the
48 decennial increase shown by such enumeration, and a
49 like tenth additional shall be added thereto in lieu of the
50 real growth of the remaining portion of the calendar year
51 then current. And in allotting the representation, —
52 where election is determined otherwise than by dis-
53 tricts, — a residue of a major fraction of the basis of
54 representation, cast for each party, or group, or candidate
55 whose name is not contained in a group, shall be given
56 representation; after which the minor fractions cast for
57 each party, group or candidate whose name is not con-
58 tained in a group shall be combined into one total, and if
59 such total equals or exceeds fifty per centum of the basis
60 of representation an additional member shall be given to
61 the party or group or candidate whose name is not con-
62 tained in a group receiving the larger of the said minor
63 fractions; and the house membership may, if necessary,
64 be increased in number for such purposes.

65 The senate is hereby abolished, such abolition to take
66 effect at the end of the political year following the election
67 at which this amendment is adopted. And all un-
68 completed matters before the senate shall be referred to
69 the house of representatives and all powers and duties
70 of the senate shall be transferred to and be vested in the
71 house of representatives.

72 All the provisions of the existing constitution incon-
73 sistent with the provisions herein contained are hereby
74 annulled.

