SENATE . . . . No. 763

Che Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MAY 6, 1954.

The committee on Constitutional Law, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Address (Senate, No. 1) as relates to an amendment to the Constitution increasing the term of the Governor of the Commonwealth to four years (page 7), reports, in accordance with a provision of Joint Rule No. 23, a Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution providing four-year terms for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary, Treasurer and Receiver General, Attorney-General and Auditor of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 763).

For the committee,

SILVIO O. CONTE.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Four

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE
CONSTITUTION PROVIDING FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR
THE GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, SECRETARY,
TREASURER AND RECEIVER GENERAL, ATTORNEY-GEN-
ERAL AND AUDITOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

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

9   ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

10   ART.   . Article LXIV of the articles of amend-
11 ment, as amended by Article LXXX, is hereby an-
12 nulled and the following article is adopted in place
13 thereof: —
14   ARTICLE LXIV. *Section 1.* The governor, lieu-
15 tenant-governor, secretary, treasurer and receiver-
16 general, attorney general and auditor shall be elected
17 quadrennially and councillors, senators and repre-
18 sentatives shall be elected biennially. The terms of
19 the governor and lieutenant-governor shall begin at
20 noon on the Thursday next following the first Wednes-
21 day in January succeeding their election and shall
22 end at noon on the Thursday next following the first
23 Wednesday in January in the fifth year following their
24 election. If the governor elect shall have died before
25 the qualification of the lieutenant-governor elect, the
26 lieutenant-governor elect upon qualification shall be-
27 come governor. If both the governor elect and the

28 lieutenant-governor elect shall have died both said
29 offices shall be deemed to be vacant and the provi-
30 sions of Article LV of the Amendments to the Con-
31 stitution shall apply. The terms of the secretary,
32 treasurer and receiver-general, attorney-general and
33 auditor shall begin with the third Wednesday in Jan-
34 uary succeeding their election and shall extend to the
35 third Wednesday in January in the fifth year follow-
36 ing their election and until their successors are chosen
37 and qualified. The terms of the councillors shall
38 begin at noon on the Thursday next following the
39 first Wednesday in January succeeding their election
40 and shall end at noon on the Thursday next following
41 the first Wednesday in January in the third year fol-
42 lowing their election. The terms of senators and
43 representatives shall begin with the first Wednesday
44 in January succeeding their election, and shall extend
45 to the first Wednesday in January in the third year
46 following their election and until their successors are
47 chosen and qualified.

48   *Section 2.* The general court shall assemble every
49 year on the first Wednesday in January.

50   *Section 3.* The first election to which this article
51 shall apply shall be held on the Tuesday next after
52 the first Monday in November in the year nineteen
53 hundred and fifty-eight. Thereafter, elections for the
54 choice of a governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary,
55 treasurer and receiver-general, attorney-general and
56 an auditor shall be held quadrennially on the Tuesday
57 next after the first Monday in November and elec-
58 tions for the choice of councillors, senators and repre-
59 sentatives shall be held biennially on the Tuesday
60 next after the first Monday in November.