

HOUSE No. 664

By Representative Kaufman of Lexington and Senator Buoniconti, joint petition of Jay R. Kaufman and others for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to a vacancy in the office of Governor or Lieutenant-Governor. Election Laws..

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Jay R. Kaufman	Michael E. Festa
Scott P. Brown	William N. Brownsberger
Charles A. Murphy	William Smitty Pignatelli
William M. Straus	Patricia D. Jehlen
Thomas M. Stanley	Denise Provost
Gale D. Candaras	Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
Michael R. Knapik	John D. Keenan
Bruce E. Tarr	Christopher N. Speranzo
Alice K. Wolf	Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.
Cory Atkins	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
RELATIVE TO A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR OR LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR.

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

7 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

8 Section II of chapter II of Part the Second of the Constitution of
9 the Commonwealth is hereby amended by striking out Article III
10 and inserting in place thereof the following two articles:—

11 Article III. Whenever the chair of the governor shall be vacant, by
12 reason of his death, resignation or removal, the lieutenant governor
13 shall become governor. Whenever the chair of the governor shall be
14 vacant by reason of his absence from the commonwealth, or other-
15 wise, except for his death, resignation or removal, the lieutenant
16 governor for the time being, shall, during such vacancy, perform all
17 the duties incumbent upon the governor, and shall have and exercise
18 all the powers and authorities, which by this constitution the gov-
19 ernor is vested with, when personally present.

20 Article IV. Whenever the office of lieutenant governor shall
21 become vacant, the governor shall nominate a lieutenant governor
22 who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both
23 the house of representatives and the senate.