

1 DB  
2 CW  
3 BC  
4 CC  
5 AA  
6 YF  
7 DO  
8 AM  
9 PA  
10 JPN  
11 AB  
12 AW  
13 CWS  
14 JC

**Initiative Petition for a Constitutional Amendment Relative to Returning Democracy to the State Legislature by Preventing the Excessive Influence and Power of Leadership through Lack of Transparency and Financial Influence**

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority:

**SECTION 1.** Article VII of Chapter I, Section II, and Article X of Chapter I, Section III are hereby amended by providing that for transparency only those rules and proceedings undefined shall be set by each respective branch and the following rules and proceedings here defined shall be set as law.

The Senate and House of Representatives, despite otherwise operating as two branches, shall establish bill subject committees that operate as joint to review the legislative bills. While each branch may have separate committees exclusive to other matters of the legislative branch, all committees crucial to the joint legislative process shall be joint committees exclusively, including the subject committees, the committee for bills in the third reading, and the committee for ways and means. The purpose of this shall be expressly to prevent the leadership of the House and Senate from bypassing a transparent democratic legislative process in the process of combining different versions of House and Senate bills. To reduce chances of stacked committees in favor of leadership interests, committee assignments must be equally distributed with a minimum of 5 members of the Senate and 9 members of the House on a committee and committee assignments may be traded in the first two weeks of the legislative session among legislative members of the same branch. The committee for ways and means and the committee for bills in the third reading shall additionally require a minimum of eleven percent of each legislative body on each committee.

The vote for Speaker of the House and Senate President shall be by majority vote and secret paper ballot at the start of the legislative session. The committees and not leadership shall choose chairpersons by majority vote via secret paper ballot and the committee, not leadership, may also change the chairperson by majority vote upon the request of the chairperson or of 2 members of the committee. Committee members may only be removed due to request by the member with agreement of the committee, evidence of relevant corruption, or a call by a majority of the respective legislative branch to remove the member alongside a majority vote by secret paper ballot.

Bills and amendments shall not be voted on in bundles or as consolidated. Any bill cosponsored by a majority of legislators in either the house or senate shall receive a floor vote. In order to assure action on other bills and excepting bills addressing emergencies, all bills in the ways and means committee and bills in the third reading must emerge in the order recieved before other bills can be addressed. Four members of the General Court can demand a roll call vote. There shall be a public record of committee roll call votes and of floor votes on all bills. The senate and house clerks shall post all recorded votes of each member of a legislative committee on the website of the general court as soon as practicable but no later than 48 hours of the vote being taken; provided, however, that in the 2 weeks before the conclusion of all formal business of the first annual session of the general court or the 2 weeks before the conclusion of the second annual session of the general court the clerk shall post all recorded votes as soon as practicable. Bills must be available for a minimum of 72 hours before a vote occurs on the bill.

The salary of members of the General Court must be the same without regard to seniority or position, but may reasonably be docked for leaving the position. Additionally, any funds, office assistance, and staffing additional to any salary must be the same among all members of the General Court or based upon itemized receipts or federal mileage rates to avoid use as leverage for votes and may similarly be docked. In other words, no payment of additional funds or assistance can be made in excess that could be used as leverage for votes. All senators must have the same number and type of staff, just as all representatives must have the same number and type of staff -- and the staff member must be chosen by the member of the General Court and cannot be removed by another member of the General Court.

- 1) KB
- 2) AW
- 3) BC
- 4) ON
- 5) [Signature]
- 6) [Signature]
- 7) [Signature]
- 8) AM
- 9) [Signature]
- 10) JPN
- 11) AB
- 12) AN
- 13) [Signature]
- 14) JC