

RESOLUTION
Proposing Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to Governor and others: That the following amendments be proposed to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, in accordance with the provisions of the tenth article thereof.

FIRST AMENDMENT.

There shall be an additional article to said constitution to be designated as article eleven, as follows:

ARTICLE XI.

OF PUBLIC DEBTS.

Section 1. The state may contract debts, to support certain deficits or failures in revenues, or to meet expenses not otherwise provided for; but the aggregate amount of such debts direct and contingent, whether contracted by virtue of one or more acts of the general assembly, or at the instance of members of the executive, legislative, or judicial departments, shall not exceed the sum of five million dollars, and the money arising from the creation of such debts, shall be applied to the purpose for which it was obtained, or to repay the debts so contracted, and to no other purpose whatsoever.

Section 2. In addition to the above limited power, the state may contract debts to repel invasion, suppose imminent attack, defend the state in war, or to remove the present outstanding indebtedness of the state; but the money arising from the contracting of such debts, shall be applied to the purpose for which it was raised, or to repay such debts, and to no other purpose whatsoever.

Section 3. Except the debts above specified, in articles one and two of this article, no debt whatever shall be created by, or on behalf of the state.

Section 4. To provide for the payment of the present debt, and any additional debt contracted as aforesaid, the legislature shall, at its first session, after the adoption of this amendment, create a sinking fund, which shall be added to the existing sinking fund, by sum not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars; which sinking fund shall consist of the net annual income of the public works, from time to time owned by the state, or the proceeds of the sale of the same, or any part thereof, and of the income of the property of the funds owned by the state, together with other funds, or moneys, which may be designated by law. The said sinking fund may be increased, from time to time, by assigning to it any part of the taxes, or other revenues of the state, not required for the ordinary and current expenses of government, and used in case of war, invasion, imminent attack, or repelling invasion, and shall be used, or applied, otherwise, than in the extinguishment of the public debt, until the amount of such debt is reduced below the sum of five millions of dollars.

Section 5. The credit of the commonwealth shall not in any manner, or event, be pledged, or loaned to, any individual, company, corporation, or association, nor shall the commonwealth hereafter become a joint owner, or stockholder, in any company, association, or corporation.

Section 6. The commonwealth shall not assume the debt, or any part thereof, of any county, city, borough, town, or incorporated district, by virtue of a vote of the inhabitants of such place, or party, or to obtain money, or loan its credit to, any corporation, association, institution, or party.

SECOND AMENDMENT.

There shall be an additional article to said constitution, to be designated as article XII, as follows:

ARTICLE XII.

OF NEW COUNTIES.

No county shall be divided by a line cutting off one-tenth of its population, (without the express assent of such county or otherwise,) without the express assent of such county, by a vote of the electors thereof; nor shall any new county be established, containing less than four hundred square miles.

THIRD AMENDMENT.

There shall be an additional article to said constitution, to be designated as article XIII, as follows:

ARTICLE XIII.

ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

From section two of the first article of the constitution, "That the city of Philadelphia shall be divided, and each county represented in proportion to its extent, in several districts, in proportion to the number of electors, and shall be divided into at least three thousand five hundred taxable districts; except that any county containing less than three thousand five hundred taxable districts, may be allowed a separate representation; but no more than three counties shall be joined, and no county shall be divided, in the formation of a district. Any city containing less than three thousand taxable districts, shall be divided into several districts, to entitle it to at least two representatives, and shall have a representation assigned to it, and shall be divided into convenient districts of contiguous territories, of equal taxable population as near as may be, each of which districts shall elect one representative."

At the end of section seven, same article, insert these words, "the city of Philadelphia shall be divided, and each county represented in proportion to the number of taxable districts, of contiguous territories as nearly as equal in taxable population as possible; but no ward shall be divided in the formation thereof."

The legislature, at its first session, after the adoption of this amendment, shall divide the city of Philadelphia into senatorial and representative districts, in the manner herein provided; such districts to remain unchanged until the next session in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

FOURTH AMENDMENT.

There shall be an additional section to the first article of said constitution, which shall be numbered and read as follows:

ARTICLE IV.

ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Section 1. The legislature shall have the power to alter, revoke, or annul, any charter of incorporation heretofore conferred by, or under, any special, general, or local law, or to change the name, or to change the seat of incorporation, or to obtain money, or loan its credit to, any corporation, association, institution, or party.

FIFTH AMENDMENT.

Resolved, That this resolution pass. On the first amendment, yeas 24, nays 7; on the second amendment, yeas 23, nays 8; on the third amendment, yeas 24, nays 4; on the fourth amendment, yeas 23, nays 4.

[Extract from the Journal.]

GEO. W. HAMMERSLEY, Clerk.

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Harrisburg, June 22, 1857.

President, &c.,

I do certify that the above and foregoing is true and correct copy of the original "Resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth," with the vote in each branch of the Legislature upon the first passage thereof, as appears from the records of this office.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, &c., and caused to be affixed the seal of my office, the day and year above written.

A. G. CURTIN,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

HARRISBURG, June 22, 1857.

Resolved, That this resolution pass. On the first amendment, yeas 24, nays 7; on the second amendment, yeas 23, nays 8; on the third amendment, yeas 24, nays 4; on the fourth amendment, yeas 23, nays 4.

[Extract from the Journal.]

JACOB ZIEGLER, Clerk.

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

HARRISBURG, June 22, 1857.

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In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, &c., and caused to be affixed the seal of my office, the day and year above written.

A. G. CURTIN,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

HARRISBURG, June 22, 1857.

The resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth being under consideration.

On the question,

"Will the Senate agree to the first amendment?"

The yeas and nays were taken, according to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follows:

ARTICLE I.

ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

President, &c.,

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ARTICLE II.

ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

President, &c.,

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ARTICLE III.

ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

President, &c.,

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ARTICLE IV.

ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

President, &c.,

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ARTICLE V.

ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

President, &c.,

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ARTICLE VI.

ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

President, &c.,

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"Will the Senate agree to the first amendment?"

The yeas and nays were taken, according to the provisions of the Constitution, and were as follows:

ARTICLE VII.

ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

President, &c.,

I do certify that the above