

HOUSE No. 1829

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying proposal for constitutional amendment:

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution limiting expenditure growth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>
<i>Steven L. Levy</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>
<i>George N. Peterson, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>Viriato Manuel deMacedo</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Bradford Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>Donald H. Wong</i>	<i>9th Essex</i>

HOUSE No. 1829

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 1829) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others for a legislative amendment to the Constitution limiting budget expenditure growth based on cost-of-living and population. Ways and Means (Jt.).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution limiting expenditure growth.

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

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

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

6 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT

7 Section 3 of Article LXIII of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the
8 Commonwealth is hereby annulled and the following is adopted in place thereof:--

9 Section 3. The General Appropriation Bill. - All appropriations based upon the budget to
10 be paid from taxes or revenues shall be incorporated in a single bill which shall be called the
11 general appropriation bill. The general court may increase, decrease, add or omit items in the
12 budget, except that, the percentage growth in aggregate expenditures in the budget for any fiscal
13 year, over the previous fiscal year's budget, shall not be more than the percentage growth rate of
14 inflation for the same fiscal year time period plus the percentage growth rate of the
15 Commonwealth's population for the same fiscal year time period. Such percentage growth rate
16 of inflation shall be determined by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price
17 Index for Boston-Brockton-Nashua, all items, all urban consumers, not seasonally adjusted, or its
18 successor index. Such percentage growth rate of the Commonwealth's population shall be
19 determined by the United States Census Bureau. The general court may provide for its salaries,
20 mileage, and expenses and for necessary expenditures in anticipation of appropriations, but
21 before final action on the general appropriation bill it shall not enact any other appropriation bill
22 except on recommendation of the governor. The governor may at any time recommend to the
23 general court supplementary budgets which shall be subject to the same procedures as the
24 original budget.