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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

**JOURNAL OF THE
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

Providence, Rhode Island

April 24, 1967

The Convention was called to order by Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, Chairman, at 3:19 p. m.

The roll of delegates was called: there were 70 present and 29 absent.

Absentees were: Mr. Appolonia, Mrs. Barber, Mr. Canna, Mmes. Capuano, Castiglia, Messrs. Cunningham, DeCiantis, DiLuglio, Dodge, Fanning of Cumberland, Gallagher, Gallogly, Gammino, Gorham of Scituate, Mrs. Hager, Mr. Jordan, Mrs. Lacroix, Messrs. Lallo, LaSalle, Martin, McCabe, Moon, Murphy of Warren, Murphy of Tiverton, Murray, Parrillo, Prince, Mrs. Pulner and Mr. Viall.

The names of the absentees were called.

On motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Messrs. Sherry and O'Donnell, reading of the Journal of the previous day was dispensed, on a voice vote.

SECOND READING OF PROPOSALS

After reconsideration and amendment, the following proposal was in order for vote on passage after second reading:

Proposal No. 155, Substitute D - "OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT"

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Bride, offered the following written motion to amend:

" I move to amend Proposal No. 155 Substitute D by deleting Section 2 thereof and substituting the following:

" 2. (1) Every city or town may incur obligations and may issue bonds or other evidences of indebtedness. (2) No indebtedness for a period of more than one year shall be incurred by any city or town unless the purpose or general purpose and amount

or maximum amount thereof are approved by a majority of those local electors voting thereon. (3) The General Assembly shall by general law provide for the method by which elections for approval of such indebtedness shall be called and held. (4) The General Assembly may by general law regulate the authorizing and incurring of indebtedness by cities and towns and prescribe the terms and procedures applicable thereto. (5) Upon the prior request of a city or town council, or with its subsequent approval, the General Assembly may also by special act permit or regulate the authorizing or incurring of indebtedness by the city or town subject to the requirements of voter approval in the case of indebtedness of over one year. (6) Such special legislation may prescribe the applicable terms and procedures, may provide for the method of the required submission to the voters, may validate or give effect to any prior approval of such indebtedness by the voters and may provide for the exclusion of such indebtedness in computing the remaining borrowing capacity of the city or town."

Kevin K. Coleman

The motion was read.

The motion was debated.

On a division vote, the motion to amend prevailed, 41 delegates voting in the affirmative and 22 delegates voting in the negative.

On suggestion by Mr. Cooney, the proposal was read and voted upon section by section, beginning with Section 3.

Section 3 of the proposal was read.

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Wexler, moved that the section be adopted.

On a division vote, the motion prevailed, 45 delegates voting in the affirmative, 0 de-

legates voting in the negative with more than 6 present and not voting.

Section 4 of the proposal was read.

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Messrs. Cochran and O'Donnell, moved that the section be adopted.

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 52 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Section 5 of the proposal was read.

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Messrs. Wexler and McKiernan, moved that the section be adopted.

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 57 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Section 6 of the proposal was read.

Mr. Coleman seconded by Messrs. Sherry and O'Donnell, moved that the section be adopted.

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 28 delegates voting in the affirmative, 20 delegates voting in the negative and more than 3 delegates present and not voting.

Section 7 of the proposal was read.

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, moved that the section be adopted.

Mr. Wexler, seconded by Messrs. Corcoran and Coleman, offered the following written motion to amend:

"I move to amend Section 7 of Proposal 155 Substitute D as follows:-

"Strike out 7(a) and substitute the following:

"The legislative body of a city or town may propose an amendment to or revision

of a charter by vote of a majority of its membership which shall be submitted to the qualified electors of said city or town as set forth in Paragraph 2 of Section 6 of the within article or at a special election called for said purpose with like publication of the change. "

Edmund Wexler

The motion was read.

On a division vote, the motion to amend prevailed, 53 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Wexler, moved that Section 7 be adopted as amended.

On a division vote, the motion prevailed, 58 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Section 8 of the proposal was read.

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Wexler, moved that the section be adopted.

Mr. Nathanson, seconded by Messrs. Pickard and Toolin, offered the following written motion to amend:

" I move that Proposal 155 Substitute D be amended by deleting Section 8 in its entirety. "

Charles Nathanson

The motion was read.

The motion was debated.

On a division vote the motion to amend did not prevail, 9 delegates voting in the affirmative and 43 delegates voting in the negative.

On a division vote the motion to adopt Section 8 prevailed, 44 delegates voting in the affirmative and 6 delegates voting in the negative, with more than 1 delegate present

and not voting.

Section 9 of the proposal was read.

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Wexler, moved that the section be adopted.

On a division vote, the motion prevailed, 47 delegates voting in the affirmative, 0 delegates voting in the negative with more than 4 delegates present and not voting.

Mr. Wexler announced that the Committee on Style and Drafting would meet at the rise of the Convention.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:27 P.M., on motion of Mr. Doris, seconded by Mr. Cochran, the Convention adjourned to meet on Monday, May 8, 1967, at 1:30 P.M. in the Chamber of the House of Representatives at the State House, on a voice vote.

August P. LaFrance, Secretary
Constitutional Convention