

# GENERAL LAWS

OF

# MINNESOTA,

PASSED AND APPROVED AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE, COMMENCING JANUARY SECOND, ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVEN, AND TERMINATING MARCH SECOND, ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVEN.

## CHAPTER 1.

AN ACT PROPOSING AMENDMENTS, TO ARTICLES FOUR (4) AND FIVE (5) OF THE CONSTITUTION, PROVIDING FOR BIENNIAL SESSIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota :*

SECTION 1. The following amendments to the constitution are hereby proposed for publication and approval or rejection by the people, in accordance with section one (1), article fourteen (14), of the constitution; that is to say, first, that section one (1) of article four (4) of the constitution be amended so as to read as follows :

Section 1. The Legislature of the State shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives, who shall meet biennially at the seat of Government of the State, at such time as shall be prescribed by law; but no session shall exceed the term of sixty days.

Sec. 2. That the following amendment to section twenty-four (24) of article four (4) of the constitution be proposed, that is to say, that said section twenty-four (24) of said arti-

cle four (4) of the constitution be amended, so as to read as follows:

Senat'rs chosen  
by single dis-  
tricts.

Sec. 24. The senators shall be chosen by single districts of convenient contiguous territory, at the same time that members of the House of Representatives are required to be chosen, and in the same manner; and no representative district shall be divided in the formation of a senate district. The senate district shall be numbered in a regular series. The terms of office of senators and representatives shall be the same as now prescribed by law, until the general election in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight (1878), at which time there shall be an entire new election of all the senators and representatives. Representatives chosen at such election, or at any election thereafter, shall hold their office for the term of two years, except it be to fill a vacancy, and the senators chosen at such election by districts designated as odd numbers, shall go out of office at the expiration of the second year, and senators chosen by districts designated by even numbers, shall go out of office at the expiration of the fourth year; and thereafter senators shall be chosen for four years, except there shall be an entire new election of all the senators at the election of representatives next succeeding each new apportionment provided for in this article.

Term of office  
of representa-  
tives.

Term of office  
of senators.

SEC. 3. That the following amendment to section two (2) of article five (5) of the constitution be proposed, that is to say, that said section two (2) of article five (5) of the constitution be amended so as to read as follows:

Canvass of re-  
turns of elec-  
tion.

Sec. 2. The returns of every election for the officers named in the foregoing section, shall be made to the Secretary of State, who shall call to his assistance two or more of the judges of the supreme court, and two disinterested judges of the district courts of the State, who shall constitute a board of canvassers, who shall open and canvass said returns, and declare the result within three (3) days after such canvass.

To be submit-  
ted to vote of  
the people.

SEC. 4. These proposed amendments shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection, at the general election for the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven (1877), and each of the legal voters of the State, in their respective districts, may at such election vote by ballot for or against such amendments, and the returns thereof shall [be] made and certified, and such votes canvassed and the result thereof declared in the manner provided by law for returning, certifying and canvassing votes at general elections for State officers, and declaring the result thereof; and if it shall appear therefrom that a majority of voters present and voting at such elections upon such amendment or amendments, shall have voted in favor of the same, or either of them, then within three (3) days after that result shall have been ascertained and declared, the Governor shall make pro-

clamation thereof, and such amendment or amendments as shall have received a majority of the votes aforesaid, shall thereupon take effect and be in force as a part of the constitution.

SEC. 5. The voters voting in favor of such amendment to section one (1) of article four (4) at said election, shall have written or printed, or partly written and partly printed upon their ballots at said election, the following words: "Amendment to section one of article four of the constitution, providing for biennial sessions of the Legislature—Yes;" and the ballots used at such election by those voting against such amendment to section one (1) of article four (4) of the constitution, shall have written or printed, or partly written and partly printed upon their ballots, the following words: "Amendment to section one of article four of the constitution, providing for biennial sessions of the Legislature—No."

To amend section 1, article 4.

SEC. 6. The voters voting in favor of such amendment to section twenty-four (24) of article four (4) at said election shall have written or printed, or partly written and partly printed upon their ballots at said election, the following words: "Amendment to section twenty-four, article four, of the constitution, preparatory for biennial sessions of the Legislature—Yes;" and the ballots used at said election by those voting against such amendment to section twenty-four (24), article four (4), of the constitution, shall have written or printed, or partly written and partly printed upon their ballots, the following words: "Amendment to section twenty-four, article four, of the constitution, preparatory for biennial sessions of the Legislature—No."

To amend section 24, art. 4.

SEC. 7. The voters voting in favor of such amendment to section two (2) of article five (5) at said election, shall have written or printed, or partly written and partly printed upon their ballots at said election, the following words: "Amendment to section two of article five of the constitution, preparatory for biennial sessions of the Legislature—Yes;" and the ballots used at said election by those voting against such amendment to section two (2) of article five (5) of the constitution, shall have written or printed, or partly written and partly printed upon their ballots, the following words: "Amendment to section two of article five of the constitution, preparatory for biennial sessions of the Legislature—No."

To amend section 2, article 5.

SEC. 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

When act to take effect.

Approved March 5, 1877.