

GENERAL LAWS



STATE OF MINNESOTA

PASSED DURING THE

THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

OF THE

STATE LEGISLATURE

COMMENCING JANUARY THIRD, ONE THOUSAND EIGHT
HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE.

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AMENDMENTS

TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, ADOPTED IN THE YEAR 1898.

An act proposing an amendment to section eight (8) of article seven (7) of the constitution of the state of Minnesota, which relates to the elective franchise of women upon measures pertaining to schools and libraries, and making women eligible to hold offices relating thereto.

Constitutional amendment, making women eligible as school and library officials.

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

SECTION 1. The following amendment to a part of article seven (7) of the constitution of the State of Minnesota is hereby proposed to the people of said state for their approval or rejection; that is to say, change section eight (8) of article seven (7) of said constitution so that said section eight (8) shall read as follows:

Sec. 8. Women may vote for school officers and members of library boards, and shall be eligible to hold any office pertaining to the management of schools or libraries.

Women may vote and be eligible.

Any woman of the age of twenty-one (21) years and upward and possessing the qualifications requisite to a male voter, may vote at any election held for the purpose of choosing any officers of schools or any members of library boards, or upon any measure relating to schools or libraries, and shall be eligible to hold any office pertaining to the management of schools and libraries.

Voted upon at the general election held November eighth (8th), eighteen hundred and ninety-eight (1898), and adopted by a vote of 71704 in favor of said amendment, and a vote of 43660 against the same.

Proclamation of the vote issued by the governor December twenty-ninth (29th), 1898.

Constitutional
amendment.

An act providing for an amendment to section one (1) of article fourteen (14) of the constitution of the state of Minnesota, which relates to the method of altering or amending the constitution of the state of Minnesota.

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

Majority vote
of electors
voting makes
amendment
valid.

SECTION 1. The following amendment to section one (1) of article fourteen (14) of the constitution of the State of Minnesota is hereby proposed to the people of said State of Minnesota for their approval or rejection; that is to say, change said section one (1) of said article fourteen (14) of said constitution so that said section one (1) shall read as follows:

Section 1. Whenever a majority of both houses of the legislature shall deem it necessary to alter or amend this constitution they may propose such alterations or amendments, which proposed amendments shall be published with the laws which have been passed at the same session, and said amendments shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at any general election, and if it shall appear in a manner to be provided by law, that a majority of all the electors voting at said election shall have voted for and ratified such alterations or amendments, the same shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of this constitution. If two or more alterations or amendments shall be submitted at the same time it shall be so regulated that the voters shall vote for or against each separately.

Voted upon at the general election held November eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight (1898), and adopted by a vote of 69760 in favor of said amendment, and a vote of 32881 against the same.

Proclamation of the vote issued by the governor December twenty-ninth (29th), 1898.

An act proposing an amendment to section thirty-six (36) of article four (4) of the constitution of the state of Minnesota, allowing cities already incorporated and villages desiring to be incorporated as cities, to frame their own charter as cities, and classifying cities for the purpose of general legislation.

Constitutional
amendment.
Municipal
charters.

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

SECTION 1. That the following amendment to section thirty-six (36) of article four (4) of the constitution of the State of Minnesota is proposed to the people of said state for their approval or rejection, which section, when so amended, shall read as follows:

Amendment.

Sec. 36. Any city or village in this state may frame a charter for its own government as a city consistent with and subject to the laws of this state, as follows: The legislature shall provide, under such restrictions as it deems proper, for a board of fifteen freeholders, who shall be and for the past five years shall have been qualified voters thereof, to be appointed by the district judges of the judicial district in which the city or village is situated, as the legislature may determine, for a term in no event to exceed six years, which board shall, within six months after its appointment, return to the chief magistrate of said city or village a draft of said charter, signed by the members of said board, or a majority thereof. Such charter shall be submitted to the qualified voters of such city or village at the next election thereafter, and if four-sevenths of the qualified voters voting at such election shall ratify the same it shall, at the end of thirty days thereafter, become the charter of such city or village as a city, and supersede any existing charter and amendments thereof; *provided*, that in cities having patrol limits now established, such charter shall require a three-fourths majority vote of the qualified voters voting at such election to change the patrol limits now established.

City or village may frame its own charter.

Charter to be submitted to voters.

Before any city shall incorporate under this act the legislature shall prescribe by law the general limits within which such charter shall be framed. Duplicate certificates shall be made setting forth the charter proposed and its ratification, which shall be signed by the chief magistrate of said city or village and authenticated by its corporate seal. One of said certificates shall be deposited in the office of secretary of state, and the other, after being recorded in the office of the register of deeds

Legislature to prescribe general limits of charter.

Amendment
of charter.

for the county in which such city or village lies, shall be deposited among the archives of such city or village, and all courts shall take judicial notice thereof. Such charter so deposited may be amended by proposal therefor made by a board of fifteen commissioners aforesaid, published for at least thirty days in three newspapers of general circulation in such city or village, and accepted by three-fifths of the qualified voters of such city or village voting at the next election and not otherwise; but such charter shall always be in harmony with and subject to the constitution and laws of the State of Minnesota. The legislature may prescribe the duties of the commission relative to submitting amendments of charter to the vote of the people, and shall provide that upon application of five per cent of the legal voters of any such city or village, by written petition, such commission shall submit to the vote of the people proposed amendments to such charter set forth in said petition. The board of freeholders above provided for shall be permanent, and all the vacancies by death, disability to perform duties, resignation or removal from the corporate limits, or expiration of term of office, shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as the original board was created, and said board shall always contain its full complement of members.

Upon applica-
tion of 5 per
cent of legal
voters.

Mayor and
legislative
body.

It shall be a feature of all such charters that there shall be provided, among other things, for a mayor or chief magistrate, and a legislative body of either one or two houses; if of two houses, at least one of them shall be elected by general vote of the electors.

Articles of
amendment
may be
submitted
separately.

In submitting any such charter or amendment thereto to the qualified voters of such city or village any alternate section or article may be presented for the choice of the voters and may be voted on separately without prejudice to other articles or sections of the charter or any amendments thereto.

General laws
for cities by
divisions of
population.

The legislature may provide general laws relating to affairs of cities, the application of which may be limited to cities of over fifty thousand inhabitants, or to cities of fifty and not less than twenty thousand inhabitants, or to cities of twenty and not less than ten thousand inhabitants, or to cities of ten thousand inhabitants or less, which shall apply equally to all such cities of either class, and which shall be paramount while in force to the provisions relating to the same matter included in the local charter herein provided for. But no local charter, provision or ordinance passed thereunder shall supersede any general law of the state defining or punishing crimes or misdemeanors.

Voted upon at the general election held November eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight (1898), and adopted by a vote of 68754 in favor of said amendment, and a vote of 32068 against the same.

Proclamation of the vote issued by the governor December twenty-ninth (29th), 1898.

An act proposing an amendment to article nine (9) of the constitution of the state of Minnesota establishing the state road and bridge fund, and providing for the appointment of a state highway commission and prescribing its duties.

Constitutional amendment. Highways.

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

SECTION 1. The following amendment to article nine (9) of the constitution of the State of Minnesota, to be known as section sixteen (16) thereof, is hereby proposed to the electors of the State of Minnesota for their approval or rejection, to-wit:

For the purpose of lending aid in the construction and improvement of public highways and bridges, there is hereby created a fund to be known as the "state road and bridge fund." Said fund shall include all moneys accruing from the income derived from investments in the internal improvement land fund, or that may hereafter accrue to said fund, and shall also include all funds accruing to any state road and bridge fund, however provided.

State road and bridge fund.

The legislature is authorized to add to such fund for the purpose of constructing or improving roads and bridges of this state, by providing, in its discretion, for an annual tax levy upon the property of this state of not to exceed in any year one-twentieth (1-20) of one (1) mill on all the taxable property within the state.

Legislature may levy tax to aid road and bridge fund.

The legislature is also authorized to provide for the appointment by the governor of the state of a board to be known as the "state highway commission," consisting of three (3) members, who shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by law without salary or compensation other than personal expenses.

Providing for state highway commission.

Such commission shall have general superintendence of the construction of state roads and bridges and shall use such fund in the construction thereof and distribute the same in the several counties in the state upon an equitable basis. *Provided, further,* that no county shall receive in any year more than three (3) per cent or less than one-

Duties of commission.

half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of one (1) per cent of the total fund thus provided and expended during such year; and *provided, further*, that no more than one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of such fund accruing in any year shall be expended for bridges, and in no case shall more than one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the cost of constructing or improving any road or bridge be paid by the state from such fund.

Voted upon at the general election held November eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight (1898), and adopted by a vote of 70043 in favor of said amendment, and a vote of 38017 against the same.

Proclamation of the vote issued by the governor December twenty-ninth (29th), 1898.