

Art. I. Harvard College, MA CONST Pt. 2, C. 5, § 1, Art. 1

Massachusetts General Laws Annotated
Constitution or Form of Government for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts [Annotated]
Part the Second the Frame of Government (Refs & Annos)
Chapter V. The University at Cambridge, and Encouragement of Literature, Etc.
Section I. The University

M.G.L.A. Const. Pt. 2, C. 5, § 1, Art. 1

Art. I. Harvard College

[Currentness](#)

ART. I. Whereas our wise and pious ancestors, so early as the year one thousand six hundred and thirty-six, laid the foundation of Harvard College, in which university many persons of great eminence have, by the blessing of GOD, been initiated in those arts and sciences, which qualified them for public employments, both in church and state: and whereas the encouragement of arts and sciences, and all good literature, tends to the honor of GOD, the advantage of the Christian religion, and the great benefit of this and the other United States of America--it is declared, that the PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE, in their corporate capacity, and their successors in that capacity, their officers and servants, shall have, hold, use, exercise and enjoy, all the powers, authorities, rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and franchises, which they now have or are entitled to have, hold, use, exercise and enjoy: and the same are hereby ratified and confirmed unto them, the said president and fellows of Harvard College, and to their successors, and to their officers and servants, respectively, forever.

[Notes of Decisions \(3\)](#)

M.G.L.A. Const. Pt. 2, C. 5, § 1, Art. 1, MA CONST Pt. 2, C. 5, § 1, Art. 1
Current through amendments approved October 1, 2014

End of Document

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Art. II. Confirmation of gifts, grants, etc., MA CONST Pt. 2, C. 5, § 1, Art. 2

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M.G.L.A. Const. Pt. 2, C. 5, § 1, Art. 2

Art. II. Confirmation of gifts, grants, etc.

[Currentness](#)

ART. II. And whereas there have been at sundry times, by divers persons, gifts, grants, devises of houses, lands, tenements, goods, chattels, legacies and conveyances, heretofore made, either to Harvard College in Cambridge, in New England, or to the president and fellows of Harvard College, or to the said college, by some other description, under several charters successively: it is declared, that all the said gifts, grants, devises, legacies and conveyances, are hereby forever confirmed unto the president and fellows of Harvard College, and to their successors in the capacity aforesaid, according to the true intent and meaning of the donor or donors, grantor or grantors, devisor or devisors.

[Notes of Decisions \(1\)](#)

M.G.L.A. Const. Pt. 2, C. 5, § 1, Art. 2, MA CONST Pt. 2, C. 5, § 1, Art. 2
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Art. III. Overseers of Harvard College; alterations in government, MA CONST Pt. 2, C....

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M.G.L.A. Const. Pt. 2, C. 5, § 1, Art. 3

Art. III. Overseers of Harvard College; alterations in government

[Currentness](#)

ART. III. [And whereas, by an act of the general court of the colony of Massachusetts Bay passed in the year one thousand six hundred and forty-two, the governor and deputy-governor, for the time being, and all the magistrates of that jurisdiction, were, with the president, and a number of the clergy in the said act described, constituted the overseers of Harvard College: and it being necessary, in this new constitution of government to ascertain who shall be deemed successors to the said governor, deputy-governor and magistrates; it is declared, that the governor, lieutenant governor, council and senate of this commonwealth, are and shall be deemed, their successors, who with the president of Harvard College, for the time being, together with the ministers of the congregational churches in the towns of Cambridge, Watertown, Charlestown, Boston, Roxbury, and Dorchester, mentioned in the said act, shall be, and hereby are, vested with all the powers and authority belonging, or in any way appertaining to the overseers of Harvard College; provided, that] nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the legislature of this commonwealth from making such alterations in the government of the said university, as shall be conducive to its advantage and the interest of the republic of letters, in as full a manner as might have been done by the legislature of the late Province of the Massachusetts Bay.

M.G.L.A. Const. Pt. 2, C. 5, § 1, Art. 3, MA CONST Pt. 2, C. 5, § 1, Art. 3
Current through amendments approved October 1, 2014

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Ch. V, § II, Refs & Annos, MA CONST Ch. V, § II, Refs & Annos

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Section II. The Encouragement of Literature, Etc.

M.G.L.A. Const. Ch. V, § II, Refs & Annos
[Currentness](#)

M.G.L.A. Const. Ch. V, § II, Refs & Annos, MA CONST Ch. V, § II, Refs & Annos
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Duty of legislatures and magistrates in all future periods, MA CONST Pt. 2, C. 5, § 2

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M.G.L.A. Const. Pt. 2, C. 5, § 2

Duty of legislatures and magistrates in all future periods

Currentness

Wisdom, and knowledge, as well as virtue, diffused generally among the body of the people, being necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties; and as these depend on spreading the opportunities and advantages of education in the various parts of the country, and among the different orders of the people, it shall be the duty of legislatures and magistrates, in all future periods of this commonwealth, to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences, and all seminaries of them; especially the university at Cambridge, public schools and grammar schools in the towns; to encourage private societies and public institutions, rewards and immunities, for the promotion of agriculture, arts, sciences, commerce, trades, manufactures, and a natural history of the country; to countenance and inculcate the principles of humanity and general benevolence, public and private charity, industry and frugality, honesty and punctuality in their dealings; sincerity, good humor, and all social affections, and generous sentiments among the people.

Notes of Decisions (31)

M.G.L.A. Const. Pt. 2, C. 5, § 2, MA CONST Pt. 2, C. 5, § 2

Current through amendments approved October 1, 2014

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