

The
said province on the
4th July 1776, became
a free sovereign &
Independent State

§. 5. The Agent for the United States,
further suggests, That on the fourth
day of July in the year of our Lord
one thousand, seven hundred and
seventy six; the said province became
a Free, sovereign, and Independent State,
by the name of the State of Massachusetts,
and in consequence thereof, was the legal
successor of the said province of the
Massachusetts Bay in New-England,
and that the same afterwards, on the
twenty fifth day of October 1780, assumed
the name and stile of The Common-
wealth of Massachusetts, and by
that name became the rightfull and
constitutional successor of the said
province and State; as appears by
the Constitution thereof here now
exhibited to the honorable Board.

§. 6.

Assumed
the name of
Commonwealth
in 1780.

§. 6. That the same Commonwealth Confederation
on the first day of January in the year
1783, was, and until the year 1789, con-
tinued to be in Confederation, united
with the States of New-Hampshire, Rhode-
Island & Providence plantations, Con-
necticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Penn-
sylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia,
North-Carolina, South-Carolina & Georgia.
all which States were, and before had been
Free-sovereign and Independent States.

§. 7. That on the third day of September,
anno Domini 1783, A Definitive
Treaty of Peace was concluded be-
tween His said Britannic Majesty,
and the said Confederated and United
States, in which, by the high contracting
parties thereto, it was agreed, stipu-
lated and declared, that the following
then were, and thereafter should
be, the boundaries of the same States
to wit