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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 376

Session of  
1977

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INTRODUCED BY CESSAR AND ZORD, MARCH 1, 1977

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 1, 1977

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, reducing the number of Senators and Members  
3 of the House of Representatives.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby resolves as follows:

6 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of  
7 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with  
8 the provisions of Article XI thereof:

9 That section 16 of Article II be amended to read:

10 § 16. Legislative districts.

11 The Commonwealth shall be divided into [50] 40 senatorial and  
12 [203] 121 representative districts, which shall be composed of  
13 compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population  
14 as practicable. Each senatorial district shall elect one  
15 Senator, and each representative district one Representative.  
16 Unless absolutely necessary no county, city, incorporated town,  
17 borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming either a  
18 senatorial or representative district.

19 SCHEDULE

1       The foregoing amendment to Article II of the Constitution of  
2 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall become effective the year  
3 following that in which the next Federal decennial census is  
4 officially reported as required by Federal law. The first  
5 elections after reapportionment of the Commonwealth under  
6 section 17 to conform to the foregoing amendment shall be held  
7 in the year 1982. At the general election in the year 1982  
8 Senators in odd-numbered districts and all Representatives shall  
9 be chosen to serve for two years and Senators in even-numbered  
10 districts shall be chosen to serve for four years. Thereafter,  
11 all Senators shall be chosen to serve for four years. The terms  
12 of all Senators in office in 1982 shall expire November 30,  
13 1982.