

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1157 Session of
1997

INTRODUCED BY WOGAN, O'BRIEN, McCALL, DENT, GIGLIOTTI, MELIO,
GODSHALL, KELLER, FARGO, DONATUCCI, B. SMITH, EGOLF, STABACK,
J. TAYLOR, TRELLO, COLAFELLA, CORNELL, LYNCH, BROWNE,
E. Z. TAYLOR, ROSS, WILT, DRUCE, DIGIROLAMO AND CIVERA,
APRIL 3, 1997

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 3, 1997

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, authorizing the General Assembly to provide
3 for a verdict by five-sixths of the jury in criminal cases.

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 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

8 That section 6 of Article I be amended to read:

9 § 6. Trial by jury.

10 Trial by jury shall be as heretofore, and the right thereof
11 remain inviolate. The General Assembly may provide, however, by
12 law, that a verdict may be rendered by not less than five-sixths
13 of the jury in any civil or criminal case.

14 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
15 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the
16 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to

1 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
2 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
3 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
4 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
5 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

6 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this
7 proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the
8 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the
9 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
10 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required
11 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such
12 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of
13 this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the
14 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment
15 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first
16 primary, general or municipal election occurring at least three
17 months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by
18 the General Assembly which meets the requirements of and is in
19 conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of
20 Pennsylvania.