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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE BILL**

**No. 696**      Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, EARLL, BOSCOLA, RAFFERTY, WASHINGTON  
AND FERLO, MARCH 26, 2007

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 26, 2007

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, requiring an individual to pass a  
3 certification examination before filing a nomination petition  
4 to become a justice of the traffic court in the City of  
5 Philadelphia and district justice.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby resolves as follows:

8 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of  
9 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

10 That section 12(b) of Article V be amended to read:

11 § 12. Qualifications of justices, judges and justices of the  
12 peace.

13 \* \* \*

14 (b) Judges of the traffic court in the City of Philadelphia  
15 and justices of the peace shall be members of the bar of the  
16 Supreme Court or shall complete a course of training and  
17 instruction in the duties of their respective offices and pass  
18 an examination prior to [assuming office] being nominated to

1 fill vacancies pursuant to section 13(b) or to filing a  
2 nomination petition for their respective offices. Such courses  
3 and examinations shall be as provided by law.

4 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
5 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the  
6 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to  
7 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article  
8 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the  
9 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in  
10 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after  
11 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

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