

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 952 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, ERICKSON, FONTANA, D. WHITE, RAFFERTY,
PIPPY, BRUBAKER, TOMLINSON, MENSCH, BREWSTER, FARNESE AND
WARD, APRIL 7, 2011

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 7, 2011

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution
2 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the legislature,
3 further providing for terms of members for legislative
4 districts.

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

7 Section 1. The following separate and distinct amendments to
8 the Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with
9 Article XI:

10 (1) That section 3 of Article II be amended to read:

11 § 3. Terms of members.

12 [Senators] The members of the General Assembly shall be
13 elected for the term of four years [and Representatives for the
14 term of two years].

15 (2) That section 16 of Article II be amended to read:

16 § 16. Legislative districts.

17 [The] (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b)
18 and (c), the Commonwealth shall be divided into 50 senatorial

1 and 203 representative districts, which shall be composed of
2 compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population
3 as practicable.

4 (b) (1) Beginning with the legislative session that
5 commences the first Tuesday of January 2013, the Commonwealth
6 shall be divided into 193 representative districts, which shall
7 be composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal
8 in population as practicable.

9 (2) Beginning with the legislative session that commences
10 the first Tuesday of January 2023, the Commonwealth shall be
11 divided into 183 representative districts, which shall be
12 composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in
13 population as practicable.

14 (3) Beginning with the legislative session that commences
15 the first Tuesday of January 2033, the Commonwealth shall be
16 divided into 173 representative districts, which shall be
17 composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in
18 population as practicable.

19 (4) Beginning with the legislative session that commences
20 the first Tuesday of January 2043, the Commonwealth shall be
21 divided into 163 representative districts, which shall be
22 composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in
23 population as practicable.

24 (5) Beginning with the legislative session that commences
25 the first Tuesday of January 2053, the Commonwealth shall be
26 divided into 153 representative districts, which shall be
27 composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in
28 population as practicable.

29 (c) (1) Beginning with the legislative session that
30 commences the first Tuesday of 2013, the Commonwealth shall be

divided into 49 senatorial districts, which shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory as practicable.

(2) Beginning with the legislative session that commences the first Tuesday of 2023, the Commonwealth shall be divided into 47 senatorial districts, which shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory as practicable.

(3) Beginning with the legislative session that commences the first Tuesday of 2033, the Commonwealth shall be divided into 45 senatorial districts, which shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory as practicable.

(d) Each senatorial district shall elect one Senator, and each representative district one Representative. Unless absolutely necessary no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming either a senatorial or representative district.

Section 2. (a) At the 2014 elections to conform to the amendment under section 1(1) of this Joint Resolution, as it relates to the amendment of section 3 of Article II, and quadrennially thereafter, Representatives shall be chosen to serve for four years in all representative districts.

(b) The Representatives now in office shall continue in such office and shall respectively represent the representative districts, as apportioned prior to the effective date of the amendment under section 1(1) of this Joint Resolution, in which they reside until the expiration of the terms for which they were elected.

Section 3. (a) The first elections after reapportionment of the Commonwealth under section 17 of Article II of the Constitution of Pennsylvania to conform to the amendment under section 1(2) of this Joint Resolution, as it relates to the

1 addition of section 16(b) (1) and (c) (1) of Article II, shall be
2 held in the year 2012.

3 (b) The first elections after reapportionment of the
4 Commonwealth under section 17 of Article II of the Constitution
5 of Pennsylvania to conform to the amendment under section 1(2)
6 of this Joint Resolution, as it relates to the addition of
7 section 16(b) (2) and (c) (2) of Article II, shall be held in the
8 year 2022.

9 (c) The first elections after reapportionment of the
10 Commonwealth under section 17 of Article II of the Constitution
11 of Pennsylvania to conform to the amendment under section 1(2)
12 of this Joint Resolution, as it relates to the addition of
13 section 16(b) (3) and (c) (3) of Article II, shall be held in the
14 year 2032.

15 (d) The first elections after reapportionment of the
16 Commonwealth under section 17 of Article II of the Constitution
17 of Pennsylvania to conform to the amendment under section 1(2)
18 of this Joint Resolution, as it relates to the addition of
19 section 16(b) (4) of Article II, shall be held in the year 2042.

20 (e) The first elections after reapportionment of the
21 Commonwealth under section 17 of Article II of the Constitution
22 of Pennsylvania to conform to the amendment under section 1(2)
23 of this Joint Resolution, as it relates to the addition of
24 section 16(b) (5) of Article II, shall be held in the year 2052.

25 Section 4. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
26 Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the
27 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to
28 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
29 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
30 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in

1 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
2 passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

3 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these
4 proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the
5 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the
6 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
7 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required
8 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such
9 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of
10 these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the
11 Commonwealth shall submit the proposed constitutional amendment
12 under section 1(1) of this Joint Resolution to the qualified
13 electors of this Commonwealth as a separate ballot question and
14 the constitutional amendment under section 1(2) of this Joint
15 Resolution as a separate ballot question at the first primary,
16 general or municipal election which meets the requirements of
17 and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the
18 Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three
19 months after the proposed constitutional amendments are passed
20 by the General Assembly.