

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 149 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, TALLMAN, SANTARSIERO, GREINER, MURT,
CONKLIN, BLOOM, MENTZER, DUNBAR, A. HARRIS, MUSTIO, MULLERY,
D. COSTA, GRELL, M. K. KELLER, PHILLIPS-HILL AND FEE,
JANUARY 22, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 22, 2015

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution
2 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, extending the term of
3 office for members of the General Assembly; placing term
4 limits on members of the General Assembly; setting a minimum
5 number of voting sessions per session term; changing
6 eligibility requirements to hold office; and reducing the
7 size of the General Assembly.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby resolves as follows:

10 Section 1. The following separate and distinct amendments to
11 the Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with
12 Article XI:

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

14 § 3. Terms of members.

15 Senators shall be elected for the term of [four] six years
16 and Representatives for the term of [two] four years.

17 (2) That Article II be amended by adding a section to read:

18 § 3.1. Term limits for members.

19 A person may not serve more than six terms of office in the

1 House of Representatives or four terms of office in the Senate.

2 (3) That section 4 of Article II be amended to read:

3 § 4. Sessions.

4 The General Assembly shall be a continuing body during the
5 term for which its Representatives are elected. It shall meet at
6 12 o'clock noon on the first Tuesday of January each year, and
7 shall meet for no fewer than 160 voting sessions per session
8 term. Special sessions shall be called by the Governor on
9 petition of a majority of the members elected to each House or
10 may be called by the Governor whenever in his opinion the public
11 interest requires.

12 (4) That section 7 of Article II be amended to read:

13 § 7. Ineligibility by criminal convictions.

14 No person hereafter convicted of a felony, embezzlement of
15 public moneys, bribery, perjury or other infamous crime, shall
16 be eligible to the General Assembly, or capable of holding any
17 office of trust or profit in this Commonwealth.

18 (5) That section 16 of Article II is amended to read:

19 § 16. Legislative districts.

20 The Commonwealth shall be divided into [50] 45 senatorial and
21 [203] 153 representative districts, which shall be composed of
22 compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population
23 as practicable. Each senatorial district shall elect one
24 Senator, and each representative district one Representative.
25 Unless absolutely necessary no county, city, incorporated town,
26 borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming either a
27 senatorial or representative district.

28 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
29 Assembly of the proposed separate and distinct constitutional
30 amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed

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

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

24 Section 3. The amendment of section 3 of Article II of the
25 Constitution of Pennsylvania shall apply to sessions of the
26 General Assembly beginning after the 2020 Federal census
27 reapportionment.

28 Section 4. The addition of section 3.1 of Article II of the
29 Constitution of Pennsylvania shall apply to terms of office
30 beginning after the 2020 Federal census reapportionment.

1 Section 5. The amendment of section 4 of Article II of the
2 Constitution of Pennsylvania shall apply to sessions of the
3 General Assembly that commence after the amendment is approved
4 by the electorate.

5 Section 6. The amendment of section 7 of Article II of the
6 Constitution of Pennsylvania shall apply to persons elected to
7 office after the amendment is approved by the electorate,
8 regardless of the date of the conviction.

9 Section 7. The amendment of section 16 of Article II of the
10 Constitution of Pennsylvania shall become effective after the
11 2020 Federal census reapportionment and the office of each
12 member of the General Assembly shall be open for election to the
13 session beginning in 2021.