

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HOUSE BILL****No. 2651** Session of  
1992

INTRODUCED BY DEMPSEY, BATTISTO, VROON, CARLSON, SAURMAN, NOYE,  
BUSH, FARGO, McHALE, WOGAN AND TOMLINSON, MAY 5, 1992

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MAY 5, 1992

## A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for qualifications of  
3 justices and judges.

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 12 of Article V be amended to read:

9 § 12. Qualifications of justices, judges and justices of the  
10 peace.

11 (a) Justices, judges and justices of the peace shall be  
12 citizens of the Commonwealth. Justices and judges, except the  
13 judges of the traffic court in the City of Philadelphia, shall  
14 be members of the bar of the Supreme Court. Justices and judges  
15 of statewide courts, for a period of one year preceding their  
16 election or appointment and during their continuance in office,  
17 shall reside within the Commonwealth. Other judges and justices

1 of the peace, for a period of one year preceding their election  
2 or appointment and during their continuance in office, shall  
3 reside within their respective districts, except as provided in  
4 this article for temporary assignments. For a period of ten  
5 years preceding their election or appointment, judges of the  
6 courts of common pleas shall have practiced law or have been  
7 engaged in a law-related occupation. Justices and judges of the  
8 Superior Court and Commonwealth Court shall, for an aggregate of  
9 ten years preceding their election or appointment, have  
10 practiced law, have served as a judge of the court of common  
11 pleas or have been engaged in a law-related occupation.

12 (b) Judges of the traffic court in the City of Philadelphia  
13 and justices of the peace shall be members of the bar of the  
14 Supreme Court or shall complete a course of training and  
15 instruction in the duties of their respective offices and pass  
16 an examination prior to assuming office. Such courses and  
17 examinations shall be as provided by law.