

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 1082** Session of  
1997

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, DALEY, LEH AND PESCI, APRIL 2, 1997

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 2, 1997

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for  
3 verdicts and preemptory challenges in criminal cases.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding sections to read:

8 § 8703. Verdicts.

9 In a criminal case, the verdict shall require a majority of  
10 no less than ten votes and shall be announced by the foreman in  
11 open court in the presence of a judge, the attorney for the  
12 Commonwealth, the defendant and the defendant's attorney, except  
13 as provided in Pa.R.Crim.P. No. 1117 (relating to presence of  
14 the defendant).

15 § 8704. Preemptory challenges.

16 (a) General rule.--In trials involving a capital felony and  
17 where there is only one defendant, the Commonwealth and the  
18 defendant shall each be entitled to ten preemptory challenges.

1        (b) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "capital  
2 felony" means a felony for which the death penalty may be  
3 imposed.

4        Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.