

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 279 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY COX, BEAR, CREIGHTON, ELLIS, GIBBONS, GRELL,  
GROVE, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, KORTZ, MUSTIO, ROAE, ROCK,  
ROHRER, SWANGER AND PETRARCA, FEBRUARY 6, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 6, 2009

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, in legislation, further providing for  
3 consideration of bills.

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 4 of Article III be amended to read:

9 § 4. Consideration of bills.

10 (a) Every bill shall be considered on three different days  
11 in each House. All amendments made thereto shall be printed for  
12 the use of the members before the final vote is taken on the  
13 bill and before the final vote is taken, upon written request  
14 addressed to the presiding officer of either House by at least  
15 25% of the members elected to that House, any bill shall be read  
16 at length in that House. No bill shall become a law, unless on  
17 its final passage the vote is taken by yeas and nays, the names  
18 of the persons voting for and against it are entered on the

1 journal, and a majority of the members elected to each House is  
2 recorded thereon as voting in its favor.

3 (b) During the period of time between a general election and  
4 the adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, legislation  
5 upon which votes are taken on final passage shall each require  
6 concurrence by two-thirds of all members of each House.

7 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
8 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, 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 this proposed constitutional amendment.

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