

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 111

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND

Printer's No. 1699

1 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 1 through 3, by striking out all of
2 said lines and inserting

3 Proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the Judiciary, further
5 providing for the Supreme Court, for the Superior Court, for
6 the Commonwealth Court and for judicial districts and
7 boundaries.

8 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 6 through 17; pages 2 through 11,
9 lines 1 through 30; page 12, lines 1 through 21; by striking out
10 all of said lines on said pages and inserting

11 Section 1. The following integrated amendments to the
12 Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with
13 Article XI:

14 (1) That section 2 of Article V be amended to read:
15 § 2. Supreme Court.

16 The Supreme Court (a) shall be the highest court of the
17 Commonwealth and in this court shall be reposed the supreme
18 judicial power of the Commonwealth;

19 (b) shall consist of seven justices, to be elected from
20 seven judicial districts which shall be established by law, one
21 of whom shall be the Chief Justice; and

22 (c) shall have such jurisdiction as shall be provided by
23 law.

24 (2) That section 3 of Article V be amended to read:
25 § 3. Superior Court.

26 The Superior Court shall be a statewide court, and shall
27 consist of [the number of judges, which shall be not less than
28 seven judges] 15 judges, to be elected from 15 judicial

29 districts which shall be established by law, and have such
30 jurisdiction as shall be provided by this Constitution or by the
31 General Assembly. One of its judges shall be the president
32 judge.

33 (3) That section 4 of Article V be amended to read:
34 § 4. Commonwealth Court.

35 The Commonwealth Court shall be a statewide court, and shall

1 consist of [the number of judges] nine judges, to be elected
2 from nine judicial districts which shall be established by law,
3 and have such jurisdiction as shall be provided by law. One of
4 its judges shall be the president judge.

5 (4) That section 11 of Article V be amended to read:

6 § 11. Judicial districts; boundaries.

7 [The number and boundaries of judicial districts shall be
8 changed by the General Assembly only with the advice and consent
9 of the Supreme Court.]

10 (a) The number of judges and justices of the Supreme Court,
11 the Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court elected from each
12 judicial district shall provide every resident of the
13 Commonwealth with approximately equal representation on a court.
14 Each judicial district shall be composed of compact and
15 contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as
16 practicable. Each judicial district shall elect one judge or
17 justice. Unless absolutely necessary, no county, city,
18 incorporated town, borough, township or ward may be divided in
19 forming a judicial district.

20 (b) The General Assembly shall, by law, establish:

21 (1) The judicial districts from which justices of the
22 Supreme Court and the judges of the Superior Court and the
23 Commonwealth Court are elected.

24 (2) A transition to an appellate court judiciary elected
25 from judicial districts.

26 (3) The effect of set judicial districts upon eligibility to
27 seek retention election.

28 (4) The order in which judicial districts shall elect
29 justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Superior Court
30 and the Commonwealth Court.

31 (5) The decennial realignment of the appellate judicial
32 districts based on the Federal decennial census, beginning in
33 2021 and occurring each ten years thereafter.

34 (c) Residency qualification for election or appointment to
35 the Supreme Court, the Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court
36 shall be established by the General Assembly.

37 (d) Except as provided under subsection (b) and section
38 7(b), the number and boundaries of all other judicial districts
39 shall be established by the General Assembly by law, with the
40 advice and consent of the Supreme Court.

41 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
42 Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the
43 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to
44 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
45 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
46 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
47 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
48 passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

49 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these
50 proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the
51 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the

1 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
2 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required
3 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such
4 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of
5 these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the
6 Commonwealth shall submit the proposed constitutional amendments
7 under section 1 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth
8 as a single ballot question at the first primary, general or
9 municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in
10 conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of
11 Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the
12 proposed constitutional amendments are passed by the General
13 Assembly.