

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 754 Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY NAILOR, ARGALL, TRELLO, E. Z. TAYLOR, DEMPSEY,
CONTI, TIGUE, COY, HERMAN, LYNCH, FAIRCHILD, TRUE, SATHER,
DRUCE, EGOLF, MASLAND, WOGAN, RAYMOND, FLICK, HENNESSEY,
HUTCHINSON, LEH, PLATTS, M. N. WRIGHT, KING, TULLI, STEIL,
MILLER, ITKIN, ARMSTRONG, SAYLOR, MAITLAND, MICHLOVIC AND
VANCE, FEBRUARY 14, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 14, 1995

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for oaths of office.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby resolves as follows:

5 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
6 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

7 That section 3 of Article VI be amended to read:

8 § 3. Oath of office.

9 Senators, Representatives and all judicial, State and county
10 officers shall, before entering on the duties of their
11 respective offices, take and subscribe the following oath or
12 affirmation before a person authorized to administer oaths.

13 "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey
14 and defend the Constitution of the United States and the
15 Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the

1 duties of my office with fidelity."

2 The oath or affirmation shall be administered to a member of
3 the Senate or to a member of the House of Representatives in the
4 hall of the House to which he shall have been elected[.] when
5 that House is in session. If the House has not returned to
6 session since the issuance of a certificate of election for a
7 special election and the deadline for filing an election contest
8 has expired, a justice or a judge may administer the oath of
9 office to a member-elect of the Senate or House anywhere in this
10 Commonwealth if the member-elect presents an election
11 certificate and an affidavit stating that the special election
12 is not the subject of a judicial challenge and stating that the
13 member-elect has provided the offices of the presiding officer
14 and the minority leader with at least 48 hours' written notice
15 of the date and location of the taking of the oath of office and
16 the name of the judge or justice administering the oath. The
17 member elected in such special election may be sworn and
18 qualified outside the presence of the presiding officer, and the
19 taking of the oath shall qualify such member as a Senator or
20 Representative. Nothing in this section shall preclude each
21 House from subsequently judging the election or qualifications
22 of such member.

23 Any person refusing to take the oath or affirmation shall
24 forfeit his office.