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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 857      Session of  
2001

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, THOMPSON, LOGAN, CONTI AND EARLL,  
MAY 7, 2001

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 7, 2001

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, requiring an individual to pass a  
3 certification examination before filing nominating petition  
4 to become a justice of the traffic court in the City of  
5 Philadelphia and district justice.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby resolves as follows:

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

10 That section 12(b) of Article V be amended to read:

11 § 12. Qualifications of justices, judges and justices of the  
12 peace.

13 \* \* \*

14 (b) Judges of the traffic court in the City of Philadelphia  
15 and justices of the peace shall be members of the bar of the  
16 Supreme Court or shall complete a course of training and  
17 instruction in the duties of their respective offices and pass  
18 an examination prior to [assuming office] filing a nomination

1 petition for their respective offices. Such courses and  
2 examinations shall be as provided by law.

3       Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
4 Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the  
5 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to  
6 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article  
7 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the  
8 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in  
9 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after  
10 passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

11       (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these  
12 proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the  
13 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the  
14 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the  
15 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required  
16 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such  
17 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of  
18 these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the  
19 Commonwealth shall submit the proposed constitutional amendments  
20 under section 1 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth  
21 as separate ballot questions at the first primary, general or  
22 municipal election occurring at least three months after the  
23 proposed constitutional amendments are passed by the General  
24 Assembly.