

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 57 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY MUSTIO, CHRISTIANA, HORNAMAN, KAUFFMAN, MAHER,  
 METZGAR, MURT, PEIFER, READSHAW, REESE, ROAE, SCAVELLO,  
 SWANGER AND VULAKOVICH, FEBRUARY 14, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 14, 2011

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution  
 2 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for  
 3 terms of members and for legislative districts.

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

6 Section 1. The following amendments to the Constitution of  
 7 Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with Article XI:

8 (1) That section 3 of Article II be amended to read:

9 § 3. Terms of members.

10 [Senators shall be elected for the term of four years and  
 11 Representatives for term of two years.]

12 (a) Senators shall be elected for the term of six years.

13 (b) Except as provided under subsection (c), Representatives  
 14 shall be elected for the term of four years.

15 (c) At the first general election in an even-numbered year  
 16 after the adoption of the amendment adding this subsection, all  
 17 representatives from even-numbered districts shall be elected  
 18 for the term of four years and all representatives from odd-

1 numbered districts shall be elected for the term of two years.

2 (2) That section 16 of Article II be amended to read:

3 § 16. Legislative districts.

4 [The] (a) Except as provided under subsection (b), the  
5 Commonwealth shall be divided into 50 senatorial and 203  
6 representative districts, which shall be composed of compact and  
7 contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as  
8 practicable. Each senatorial district shall elect one Senator,  
9 and each representative district one Representative. Unless  
10 absolutely necessary no county, city, incorporated town,  
11 borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming either a  
12 senatorial or representative district.

13 (b) Beginning with each session that commences three years  
14 following a Federal decennial census, which results in a  
15 reduction in the number of congressional districts within the  
16 Commonwealth, and for each session thereafter until a subsequent  
17 census results in further reduction in the number of  
18 congressional districts within the Commonwealth, the following  
19 shall apply:

20 (1) The Commonwealth shall be divided into a number of  
21 representative districts determined by applying the  
22 percentage by which the number of congressional districts was  
23 reduced to the number of representative districts existing at  
24 the time of the Federal decennial census and subtracting the  
25 product, rounded to ones, from the number of representative  
26 districts existing at the time of the Federal decennial  
27 census.

28 (2) The Commonwealth shall be divided into a number of  
29 senatorial districts determined by applying the percentage by  
30 which the number of congressional districts was reduced to

1 the number of senatorial districts existing at the time of  
2 the Federal decennial census and subtracting the product,  
3 rounded to ones, from the number of senatorial districts  
4 existing at the time of the Federal decennial census.

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

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