

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL

No. 1010 Session of  
2021

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, ROTHMAN, BERNSTINE, ROWE, JAMES, RYAN,  
CAUSER, GREGORY, R. BROWN, SAYLOR, KAUFFMAN, STAATS,  
LAWRENCE, GROVE, MOUL, COX, B. MILLER, STEPHENS, HICKERNELL  
AND ZIMMERMAN, APRIL 27, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 27, 2021

## A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for proposal of amendments  
3 by the General Assembly and their adoption.

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 1 of Article XI be amended to read:

9 § 1. Proposal of amendments by the General Assembly and their  
10 adoption.

11 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in the Senate  
12 or House of Representatives; and if the same shall be agreed to  
13 by a majority of the members elected to each House, such  
14 proposed amendment or amendments shall be entered on their  
15 journals with the yeas and nays taken thereon, and the  
16 [Secretary of the Commonwealth] Secretary of the Senate or the  
17 Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, as appropriate,

1 shall cause the same to be published three months before the  
2 next general election, in at least two newspapers in every  
3 county in which such newspapers shall be published; and if, in  
4 the General Assembly next afterwards chosen, such proposed  
5 amendment or amendments shall be agreed to by a majority of the  
6 members elected to each House, the [Secretary of the  
7 Commonwealth] Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the  
8 House of Representatives, as appropriate, shall cause the same  
9 again to be published in the manner aforesaid; and such proposed  
10 amendment or amendments shall be submitted to the qualified  
11 electors of the State in such manner, and at such time at least  
12 three months after being so agreed to by the two Houses, as the  
13 General Assembly shall prescribe; and, if such amendment or  
14 amendments shall be approved by a majority of those voting  
15 thereon, such amendment or amendments shall become a part of the  
16 Constitution; but no amendment or amendments shall be submitted  
17 oftener than once in five years. When two or more amendments  
18 shall be submitted they shall be voted upon separately.

19 (a) In the event a major emergency threatens or is about to  
20 threaten the Commonwealth and if the safety or welfare of the  
21 Commonwealth requires prompt amendment of this Constitution,  
22 such amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in the  
23 Senate or House of Representatives at any regular or special  
24 session of the General Assembly, and if agreed to by at least  
25 two-thirds of the members elected to each House, a proposed  
26 amendment shall be entered on the journal of each House with the  
27 yeas and nays taken thereon and the [official in charge of  
28 statewide elections] Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk  
29 of the House of Representatives, as appropriate, shall promptly  
30 publish such proposed amendment in at least two newspapers in

1 every county in which such newspapers are published. Such  
2 amendment shall then be submitted to the qualified electors of  
3 the Commonwealth in such manner, and at such time, at least one  
4 month after being agreed to by both Houses as the General  
5 Assembly prescribes.

6 (b) If an emergency amendment is approved by a majority of  
7 the qualified electors voting thereon, it shall become part of  
8 this Constitution. When two or more emergency amendments are  
9 submitted they shall be voted on separately.

10 (c) Second publication of a proposed amendment, or  
11 publication of a proposed emergency amendment, shall include  
12 only the language of the amendment along with, as prepared by  
13 the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House as  
14 appropriate, both the question to be used on the ballot and a  
15 summary of the amendment.

16 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
17 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the  
18 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to  
19 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article  
20 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the  
21 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in  
22 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after  
23 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary  
24 of the Commonwealth shall issue a report on the publication  
25 required under this subsection to the Secretary of the Senate  
26 and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives four months  
27 prior to the next general election.

28 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this  
29 proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the  
30 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 this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the  
6 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment  
7 as a single ballot question to the qualified electors of this  
8 Commonwealth at the first primary, general or municipal election  
9 which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with  
10 section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and  
11 which occurs at least three months after the proposed  
12 constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly. The  
13 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall issue a report on the  
14 publication required under this subsection to the Secretary of  
15 the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives  
16 four months prior to the first primary, general or municipal  
17 election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance  
18 with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania  
19 and which occurs at least three months after the proposed  
20 constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.