
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2539 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY HERSHEY, COX, DOWLING, GILLESPIE, M. MACKENZIE,
MENTZER, ROTHMAN, ROWE, SAYLOR AND SMITH, APRIL 25, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 25, 2022

A JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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 14 of Article VII be amended to read:

8 § 14. Absentee voting.

9 (a) The Legislature shall, by general law, provide a manner
10 in which, and the time and place at which, qualified electors
11 [who may, on the occurrence of any election, be absent from the
12 municipality of their residence, because their duties,
13 occupation or business require them to be elsewhere or who, on
14 the occurrence of any election, are unable to attend at their
15 proper polling places because of illness or physical disability
16 or who will not attend a polling place because of the observance
17 of a religious holiday or who cannot vote because of election

1 day duties, in the case of a county employee, may vote, and for
2 the return and canvass of their votes in the election district
3 in which they respectively reside.] may vote by absentee ballot.

4 An elector shall be qualified to vote by absentee ballot only
5 due to:

6 (1) Illness or physical disability preventing an elector
7 from voting at a polling place.

8 (2) Duties or occupational obligations requiring absence
9 from the elector's municipality of residence on the date of an
10 election.

11 (3) Election day duties, in the case of a county employee.

12 (4) The observance of a religious holiday.

13 (a.1) Except as provided under subsection (a), the
14 Legislature shall make no law permitting a qualified elector to
15 vote by mail or absentee ballot or prior to election day.

16 (b) For purposes of this section, "municipality" means a
17 city, borough, incorporated town, township or any similar
18 general purpose unit of government which may be created by the
19 General Assembly.

20 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
21 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the
22 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to
23 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
24 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
25 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
26 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
27 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

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 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first
8 primary, general or municipal election which meets the
9 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article
10 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least
11 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is
12 passed by the General Assembly.