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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 882 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, FONTANA, CAPPELLETTI AND BREWSTER,  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

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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 Secretary  
16 of the Commonwealth shall cause the same to be published three  
17 months before the next general election, in at least two  
18 newspapers in every county in which such newspapers shall be

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

16 (a) In the event a major emergency threatens or is about to  
17 threaten the Commonwealth and if the safety or welfare of the  
18 Commonwealth requires prompt amendment of this Constitution,  
19 such amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in the  
20 Senate or House of Representatives at any regular or special  
21 session of the General Assembly, and if agreed to by at least  
22 two-thirds of the members elected to each House, a proposed  
23 amendment shall be entered on the journal of each House with the  
24 yeas and nays taken thereon and the official in charge of  
25 statewide elections shall promptly publish such proposed  
26 amendment in at least two newspapers in every county in which  
27 such newspapers are published. Such amendment shall then be  
28 submitted to the qualified electors of the Commonwealth in such  
29 manner, and at such time, at least one month after being agreed  
30 to by both Houses as the General Assembly prescribes.

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

5 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
6 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, 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 this proposed constitutional amendment.

13 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this  
14 proposed constitutional amendment, 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 this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the  
21 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment  
22 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first  
23 primary, general or municipal election which meets the  
24 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article  
25 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least  
26 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is  
27 passed by the General Assembly.