

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1179 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY D. EVANS, BLACKWELL, CAPPELLI, COSTA, DALEY,
DePASQUALE, FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, GRUCELA, HANNA, KENNEY, KING,
KIRKLAND, LENTZ, LEVDANSKY, MAHONEY, PRESTON, RAMALEY,
RAYMOND, TANGRETTI, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI, KORTZ AND HORNAMAN,
MAY 1, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 1, 2007

AN ACT

1 Establishing a temporary State commission to study the
2 Constitution of Pennsylvania to recommend possible amendment
3 or revision; prescribing the powers and duties of the
4 commission; and making an appropriation.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Commission on
9 Constitutional Revision Act.

10 Section 2. Commission established.

11 A temporary State commission, to be known as the Commission
12 on Constitutional Revision, is hereby established. The
13 commission shall consist of 15 citizens of this Commonwealth of
14 whom five shall be appointed by the Governor, three shall be
15 appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, three
16 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives, two shall be appointed by the Minority Leader

1 of the Senate and two shall be appointed by the Minority Leader
2 of the House of Representatives.

3 Section 3. Election of officers.

4 The members of the Commission on Constitutional Revision
5 shall elect from its membership a chairman and a vice chairman.
6 Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in
7 the manner provided for original appointments.

8 Section 4. Purpose of commission.

9 The Commission on Constitutional Revision shall study the
10 Constitution of Pennsylvania, as amended, in the light of
11 contemporary conditions and the anticipated problems and needs
12 of the people of this Commonwealth. If the commission finds
13 change in the constitution advisable, it shall consider the best
14 means of effecting such change. If the commission determines
15 that the best means is by amendment, it shall so recommend and
16 its report shall contain drafts of the proposed amendment or
17 amendments. If the commission determines that the best means is
18 by general revision, it shall collect, compile and analyze such
19 information as it may deem useful to the delegates at a
20 constitutional convention and shall make any recommendations
21 relating to the substance of revision as it may consider
22 appropriate.

23 Section 5. Final report.

24 The Commission on Constitutional Revision shall submit its
25 final report to the Governor and the General Assembly not later
26 than one year after the effective date of this section.

27 Section 6. Studies.

28 The Commission on Constitutional Revision may conduct any
29 studies or analyses it deems relevant through its own personnel
30 or in cooperation with any public or private agency including,

1 but not limited to, universities, colleges, foundations and
2 research organizations.

3 Section 7. Expenses.

4 The members of the Commission on Constitutional Revision
5 shall receive no compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all
6 expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their
7 duties.

8 Section 8. Employment.

9 The Commission on Constitutional Revision may employ, and at
10 its pleasure remove, such personnel as it may deem necessary for
11 the performance of its functions and fix their compensation
12 within the amounts made available by appropriation.

13 Section 9. Other duties.

14 The Commission on Constitutional Revision may enter into any
15 agreements for research or otherwise and to do and perform any
16 acts that may be necessary, desirable or proper to carry out the
17 purposes of this act.

18 Section 10. Meeting and hearings.

19 The Commission on Constitutional Revision may meet within and
20 without this Commonwealth and may hold public or private
21 hearings.

22 Section 11. Cooperation.

23 The heads of the several departments, agencies, boards,
24 commissions, authorities and instrumentalities of the
25 Commonwealth and of the governmental subdivisions of the
26 Commonwealth shall cooperate with the Commission on
27 Constitutional Revision with such facilities, assistance and
28 data as may be necessary or desirable for the commission to
29 properly carry out its functions under this act, and which will
30 not interfere with the proper conduct of the respective

1 departments, agencies, boards, commissions, authorities,
2 instrumentalities and governmental subdivisions.

3 Section 12. Appropriation.

4 The sum of \$475,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,
5 is hereby appropriated to the Commission on Constitutional
6 Revision for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2006, and July
7 1, 2007. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this
8 act. Payment from the appropriation shall be made by request of
9 the chairman of the commission in the manner provided by law.

10 Section 13. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect immediately.