
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 2389 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY GIBBONS, GRUCELA, BENNINGHOFF, DALEY, HORNAMAN,
HUTCHINSON, McILVAINE SMITH AND MUNDY, APRIL 7, 2010

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 7, 2010

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for a unicameral
3 General Assembly.

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

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

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

10 § 1. Legislative power.

11 The legislative power of this Commonwealth shall be vested in
12 a General Assembly[, which shall consist of a Senate and a House
13 of Representatives].

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

15 § 2. Election of members; vacancies.

16 Members of the General Assembly shall be chosen at the
17 general election every second year. Their term of service shall
18 begin on the first day of December next after their election.

1 Whenever a vacancy shall occur [in either House], the presiding
2 officer [thereof] shall issue a writ of election to fill such
3 vacancy for the remainder of the term.

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

5 § 3. Terms of members.

6 [Senators] (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), members
7 shall be elected for the term of four years [and Representatives
8 for the term of two years].

9 (b) At the first general election after the adoption of the
10 amendment adding this subsection, members from odd-numbered
11 districts shall be elected for a term of two years, and members
12 from even-numbered districts shall be elected for a term of four
13 years.

14 (4) That section 4 of Article II be amended to read:

15 § 4. Sessions.

16 The General Assembly shall be a continuing body during the
17 term for which its [Representatives] members are elected. It
18 shall meet at 12 o'clock noon on the first Tuesday of January
19 each year. Special sessions shall be called by the Governor on
20 petition of a majority of the members [elected to each House] or
21 may be called by the Governor whenever in his opinion the public
22 interest requires.

23 (5) That section 5 of Article II be amended to read:

24 § 5. Qualifications of members.

25 [Senators] Members of the General Assembly shall be at least
26 25 years of age [and Representatives 21 years of age]. They
27 shall have been citizens and inhabitants of the State four
28 years, and inhabitants of their respective districts one year
29 next before their election (unless absent on the public business
30 of the United States or of this State), and shall reside in

1 their respective districts during their terms of service.

2 (6) That section 6 of Article II be amended to read:

3 § 6. Disqualification to hold other office.

4 No [Senator or Representative] member of the General Assembly
5 shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to
6 any civil office under this Commonwealth to which a salary, fee
7 or perquisite is attached. No member of Congress or other person
8 holding any office (except of attorney-at-law or in the National
9 Guard or in a reserve component of the armed forces of the
10 United States) under the United States or this Commonwealth to
11 which a salary, fee or perquisite is attached shall be a member
12 of [either House] the General Assembly during his continuance in
13 office.

14 (7) That section 8 of Article II be amended to read:

15 § 8. Compensation.

16 The members of the General Assembly shall receive such salary
17 and mileage for regular and special sessions as shall be fixed
18 by law, and no other compensation whatever, whether for service
19 upon committee or otherwise. No member of [either House] the
20 General Assembly shall during the term for which he may have
21 been elected, receive any increase of salary, or mileage, under
22 any law passed during such term.

23 (8) That section 9 of Article II be amended to read:

24 § 9. Election of officers; judge of election and qualifications
25 of members.

26 [The Senate shall, at the beginning and close of each regular
27 session and at such other times as may be necessary, elect one
28 of its members President pro tempore, who shall perform the
29 duties of the Lieutenant Governor, in any case of absence or
30 disability of that officer, and whenever the said office of

1 Lieutenant Governor shall be vacant. The House of
2 Representatives] The General Assembly shall elect one of its
3 members as Speaker. [Each House] It shall choose its other
4 officers, and shall judge of the election and qualifications of
5 its members.

6 (9) That section 10 of Article II be amended to read:

7 § 10. Quorum.

8 A majority of [each House] the General Assembly shall
9 constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from day
10 to day and compel the attendance of absent members.

11 (10) That section 11 of Article II be amended to read:

12 § 11. Powers of [each house] the General Assembly; expulsion.

13 [Each House] The General Assembly shall have power to
14 determine the rules of its proceedings and punish its members or
15 other persons for contempt or disorderly behavior in its
16 presence, to enforce obedience to its process, to protect its
17 members against violence or offers of bribes or private
18 solicitation, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, to expel
19 a member, but not a second time for the same cause, and shall
20 have all other powers necessary for the Legislature of a free
21 State. A member expelled for corruption shall not thereafter be
22 eligible to [either House] the General Assembly, and punishment
23 for contempt or disorderly behavior shall not bar an indictment
24 for the same offense.

25 (11) That section 12 of Article II be amended to read:

26 § 12. Journals; yeas and nays.

27 [Each House] The General Assembly shall keep a journal of its
28 proceedings and from time to time publish the same, except such
29 parts as require secrecy, and the yeas and nays of the members
30 on any question shall, at the desire of any two of them, be

1 entered on the journal.

2 (12) That section 13 of Article II be amended to read:

3 § 13. Open sessions.

4 The sessions of [each House] the General Assembly and of
5 committees of the whole shall be open, unless when the business
6 is such as ought to be kept secret.

7 (13) That section 14 of Article II be repealed:

8 [§ 14. Adjournments.

9 Neither House shall, without the consent of the other,
10 adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than
11 that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.]

12 (14) That section 15 of Article II be amended to read:

13 § 15. Privileges of members.

14 The members of the General Assembly shall in all cases,
15 except treason, felony, violation of their oath of office, and
16 breach or surety of the peace, be privileged from arrest during
17 their attendance at the sessions of [their respective Houses]
18 the General Assembly and in going to and returning from the
19 same; and for any speech or debate in [either House] the General
20 Assembly, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

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

22 § 16. Legislative districts.

23 The Commonwealth shall be divided into [50 senatorial and 203
24 representative] 201 legislative districts, which shall be
25 composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in
26 population as practicable. Each [senatorial] legislative
27 district shall elect one [Senator, and each representative
28 district one Representative] member of the General Assembly.

29 Unless absolutely necessary no county, city, incorporated town,
30 borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming [either a

1 senatorial or representative] a legislative district.

2 (16) That section 17(b) of Article II be amended to read:

3 § 17. Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

4 * * *

5 (b) The commission shall consist of [five] three members:

6 [four] two of whom shall be the majority and minority leaders of

7 [both the Senate and the House of Representatives] the General

8 Assembly, or deputies appointed by each of them, and a chairman

9 selected as hereinafter provided. No later than 60 days

10 following the official reporting of the Federal decennial census

11 as required by Federal law, the [four] two members shall be

12 certified by the [President pro tempore of the Senate and the

13 Speaker of the House of Representatives] Speaker of the General

14 Assembly to the elections officer of the Commonwealth who under

15 law shall have supervision over elections.

16 The [four] two members within 45 days after their

17 certification shall select the [fifth] third member, who shall

18 serve as chairman of the commission, and shall immediately

19 certify his name to such elections officer. The chairman shall

20 be a citizen of the Commonwealth other than a local, State or

21 Federal official holding an office to which compensation is

22 attached.

23 If the [four] two members fail to select the [fifth] third

24 member within the time prescribed, a majority of the entire

25 membership of the Supreme Court within 30 days thereafter shall

26 appoint the chairman as aforesaid and certify his appointment to

27 such elections officer.

28 Any vacancy in the commission shall be filled within 15 days

29 in the same manner in which such position was originally filled.

30 * * *

(17) That section 1 of Article III be amended to read:

§ 1. Passage of laws.

No law shall be passed except by bill, and no bill shall be so altered or amended, on its passage through [either House] the General Assembly, as to change its original purpose.

(18) That section 4 of Article III be amended to read:

§ 4. Consideration of bills.

Every bill shall be considered on three different days [in each House]. All amendments made thereto shall be printed for the use of the members before the final vote is taken on the bill and before the final vote is taken, upon written request addressed to the presiding officer of [either House] the General Assembly by at least 25% of the members elected to [that House] the General Assembly, any bill shall be read at length [in that House]. No bill shall become a law, unless on its final passage the vote is taken by yeas and nays, the names of the persons voting for and against it are entered on the journal, and a majority of the members elected to [each House] the General Assembly is recorded thereon as voting in its favor.

(19) That section 5 of Article III be repealed:

[§ 5. Concurring in amendments; conference committee reports.

No amendment to bills by one House shall be concurred in by the other, except by the vote of a majority of the members elected thereto, taken by yeas and nays, and the names of those voting for and against recorded upon the journal thereof; and reports of committees of conference shall be adopted in either House only by the vote of a majority of the members elected thereto, taken by yeas and nays, and the names of those voting recorded upon the journals.]

(20) That section 8 of Article III be amended to read:

1 § 8. Signing of bills.

2 The presiding officer of [each House] the General Assembly
3 shall, in the presence of the [House over which he presides]
4 General Assembly, sign all bills and joint resolutions passed by
5 the General Assembly, after their titles have been publicly read
6 immediately before signing; and the fact of signing shall be
7 entered on the journal.

8 (21) That section 9 of Article III be amended to read:

9 § 9. Action on concurrent orders and resolutions.

10 Every order, resolution or vote, [to which the concurrence of
11 both Houses may be necessary,] except on the question of
12 adjournment, shall be presented to the Governor and before it
13 shall take effect be approved by him, or being disapproved,
14 shall be repassed by two-thirds of [both Houses] the General
15 Assembly according to the rules and limitations prescribed in
16 case of a bill.

17 (22) That section 10 of Article III be repealed:

18 [\$ 10. Revenue bills.

19 All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of
20 Representatives, but the Senate may propose amendments as in
21 other bills.]

22 (23) That section 13 of Article III be amended to read:

23 § 13. Vote denied members with personal interest.

24 A member who has a personal or private interest in any
25 measure or bill proposed or pending before the General Assembly
26 shall disclose the fact to the [House of which he is a member]
27 General Assembly, and shall not vote thereon.

28 (24) That section 17 of Article III be amended to read:

29 § 17. Appointment of legislative officers and employees.

30 The General Assembly shall prescribe by law the number,

1 duties and compensation of the officers and employees [of each
2 House], and no payment shall be made from the State Treasury, or
3 be in any way authorized, to any person, except to an acting
4 officer or employee elected or appointed in pursuance of law.

5 (25) That section 30 of Article III be amended to read:

6 § 30. Charitable and educational appropriations.

7 No appropriation shall be made to any charitable or
8 educational institution not under the absolute control of the
9 Commonwealth, other than normal schools established by law for
10 the professional training of teachers for the public schools of
11 the State, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the members
12 elected to [each House] the General Assembly.

13 (26) That section 2 of Article IV be amended to read:

14 § 2. Duties of Governor; election procedure; tie or contest.

15 The supreme executive power shall be vested in the Governor,
16 who shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed; he
17 shall be chosen on the day of the general election, by the
18 qualified electors of the Commonwealth, at the places where they
19 shall vote for Representatives. The returns of every election
20 for Governor shall be sealed up and transmitted to the seat of
21 government, directed to the [President of the Senate] Speaker of
22 the General Assembly, who shall open and publish them in the
23 presence of the members [of both Houses] of the General
24 Assembly. The person having the highest number of votes shall be
25 Governor, but if two or more be equal and highest in votes, one
26 of them shall be chosen Governor by the [joint] vote of the
27 members of [both Houses] the General Assembly. Contested
28 elections shall be determined by a committee, to be selected
29 from [both Houses of] the General Assembly, and formed and
30 regulated in such manner as shall be directed by law.

(27) That section 4 of Article IV be amended to read:

§ 4. Lieutenant Governor.

A Lieutenant Governor shall be chosen jointly with the Governor by the casting by each voter of a single vote applicable to both offices, for the same term, and subject to the same provisions as the Governor[; he shall be President of the Senate. As such, he may vote in case of a tie on any question except the final passage of a bill or joint resolution, the adoption of a conference report or the concurrence in amendments made by the House of Representatives].

(28) That section 8 of Article IV be amended to read:

§ 8. Appointing power.

(a) The Governor shall appoint a Secretary of Education and such other officers as he shall be authorized by law to appoint. The appointment of the Secretary of Education and of such other officers as may be specified by law, shall be subject to the consent of two-thirds or a majority of the members elected to the [Senate] General Assembly as is specified by law.

(b) The Governor shall fill vacancies in offices to which he appoints by nominating to the [Senate] General Assembly a proper person to fill the vacancy within 90 days of the first day of the vacancy and not thereafter. The [Senate] General Assembly shall act on each executive nomination within 25 legislative days of its submission. If the [Senate] General Assembly has not voted upon a nomination within 15 legislative days following such submission, any [five] 25 members of the [Senate] General Assembly may, in writing, request the presiding officer of the [Senate] General Assembly to place the nomination before the entire [Senate] General Assembly body whereby the nomination must be voted upon prior to the expiration of five legislative

1 days or 25 legislative days following submission by the
2 Governor, whichever occurs first. If the nomination is made
3 during a recess or after adjournment sine die, the [Senate]
4 General Assembly shall act upon it within 25 legislative days
5 after its return or reconvening. If the [Senate] General
6 Assembly for any reason fails to act upon a nomination submitted
7 to it within the required 25 legislative days, the nominee shall
8 take office as if the appointment had been consented to by the
9 [Senate] General Assembly. The Governor shall in a similar
10 manner fill vacancies in the offices of Lieutenant Governor,
11 Auditor General, State Treasurer, justice, judge, justice of the
12 peace and in any other elective office he is authorized to fill.
13 In the case of a vacancy in an elective office, a person shall
14 be elected to the office on the next election day appropriate to
15 the office unless the first day of the vacancy is within two
16 calendar months immediately preceding the election day in which
17 case the election shall be held on the second succeeding
18 election day appropriate to the office.

19 (c) In acting on executive nominations, the [Senate] General
20 Assembly shall sit with open doors. The votes shall be taken by
21 yeas and nays and shall be entered on the journal.

22 (29) That section 9 of Article IV be amended to read:

23 § 9. Pardoning power; Board of Pardons.

24 (a) In all criminal cases except impeachment the Governor
25 shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures, to grant
26 reprieves, commutation of sentences and pardons; but no pardon
27 shall be granted, nor sentence commuted, except on the
28 recommendation in writing of a majority of the Board of Pardons,
29 and, in the case of a sentence of death or life imprisonment, on
30 the unanimous recommendation in writing of the Board of Pardons,

1 after full hearing in open session, upon due public notice. The
2 recommendation, with the reasons therefor at length, shall be
3 delivered to the Governor and a copy thereof shall be kept on
4 file in the office of the Lieutenant Governor in a docket kept
5 for that purpose.

6 (b) The Board of Pardons shall consist of the Lieutenant
7 Governor who shall be chairman, the Attorney General and three
8 members appointed by the Governor with the consent of a majority
9 of the members elected to the [Senate] General Assembly for
10 terms of six years. The three members appointed by the Governor
11 shall be residents of Pennsylvania. One shall be a crime victim,
12 one a corrections expert and the third a doctor of medicine,
13 psychiatrist or psychologist. The board shall keep records of
14 its actions, which shall at all times be open for public
15 inspection.

16 (30) That section 12 of Article IV be amended to read:

17 § 12. Power to convene and adjourn the General Assembly.

18 He may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the General
19 Assembly[, and in case of disagreement between the two Houses,
20 with respect to the time of adjournment, adjourn them to such
21 time as he shall think proper, not exceeding four months]. He
22 shall have power to convene the [Senate] General Assembly in
23 extraordinary session by proclamation for the transaction of
24 Executive business.

25 (31) That section 14 of Article IV be amended to read:

26 § 14. Vacancy in office of Lieutenant Governor.

27 In case of the death, conviction on impeachment, failure to
28 qualify or resignation of the Lieutenant Governor[, or in case
29 he should become Governor under section 13 of this article, the
30 President pro tempore of the Senate shall become Lieutenant

1 Governor for the remainder of the term] , the Governor shall
2 appoint, in accordance with section 8 of this article, a
3 Lieutenant Governor. The appointment shall be subject to the
4 consent of a majority of the members elected to the General
5 Assembly. The appointee, upon approval, shall serve for the
6 remainder of the term. In case of the disability of the
7 Lieutenant Governor, the powers, duties and emoluments of the
8 office shall devolve upon the [President pro tempore of the
9 Senate] Speaker of the General Assembly until the disability is
10 removed. Should there be no Lieutenant Governor, the [President
11 pro tempore of the Senate] Speaker of the General Assembly shall
12 become Governor if a vacancy shall occur in the office of
13 Governor and in case of the disability of the Governor, the
14 powers, duties and emoluments of the office shall devolve upon
15 the [President pro tempore of the Senate] Speaker of the General
16 Assembly until the disability is removed. His seat as [Senator]
17 member of the General Assembly shall become vacant whenever he
18 shall become Governor and shall be filled by election as any
19 other vacancy in the [Senate] General Assembly.

20 (32) That section 15 of Article IV be amended to read:

21 § 15. Approval of bills; vetoes.

22 Every bill which shall have passed [both Houses] the General
23 Assembly shall be presented to the Governor; if he approves he
24 shall sign it, but if he shall not approve he shall return it
25 with his objections to the [House in which it shall have
26 originated] General Assembly, which [House] shall enter the
27 objections at large upon their journal, and proceed to re-
28 consider it. If after such re-consideration, two-thirds of all
29 the members elected to [that House] the General Assembly shall
30 agree to pass the bill, [it shall be sent with the objections to

1 the other House by which likewise it shall be re-considered, and
2 if approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to that
3 House] it shall be a law; but in such cases the votes of [both
4 Houses] the General Assembly shall be determined by yeas and
5 nays, and the names of the members voting for and against the
6 bill shall be entered on the [journals of each House,
7 respectively] journal. If any bill shall not be returned by the
8 Governor within ten days after it shall have been presented to
9 him, the same shall be a law in like manner as if he had signed
10 it, unless the General Assembly, by their adjournment, prevent
11 its return, in which case it shall be a law, unless he shall
12 file the same, with his objections, in the office of the
13 Secretary of the Commonwealth, and give notice thereof by public
14 proclamation within 30 days after such adjournment.

15 (33) That section 13(b) and (d) of Article V be amended to
16 read:

17 § 13. Election of justices, judges and justices of the peace;
18 vacancies.

19 * * *

20 (b) A vacancy in the office of justice, judge or justice of
21 the peace shall be filled by appointment by the Governor. The
22 appointment shall be with the advice and consent of two-thirds
23 of the members elected to the [Senate] General Assembly, except
24 in the case of justices of the peace which shall be by a
25 majority. The person so appointed shall serve for a term ending
26 on the first Monday of January following the next municipal
27 election more than ten months after the vacancy occurs or for
28 the remainder of the unexpired term whichever is less, except in
29 the case of persons selected as additional judges to the
30 Superior Court, where the General Assembly may stagger and fix

1 the length of the initial terms of such additional judges by
2 reference to any of the first, second and third municipal
3 elections more than ten months after the additional judges are
4 selected. The manner by which any additional judges are selected
5 shall be provided by this section for the filling of vacancies
6 in judicial offices.

7 * * *

8 (d) At the primary election in 1969, the electors of the
9 Commonwealth may elect to have the justices and judges of the
10 Supreme, Superior, Commonwealth and all other statewide courts
11 appointed by the Governor from a list of persons qualified for
12 the offices submitted to him by the Judicial Qualifications
13 Commission. If a majority vote of those voting on the question
14 is in favor of this method of appointment, then whenever any
15 vacancy occurs thereafter for any reason in such court, the
16 Governor shall fill the vacancy by appointment in the manner
17 prescribed in this subsection. Such appointment shall not
18 require the consent of the [Senate] General Assembly.

19 * * *

20 (34) That section 3 of Article VI be amended to read:

21 § 3. Oath of office.

22 [Senators, Representatives] Members of the General Assembly
23 and all judicial, State and county officers shall, before
24 entering on the duties of their respective offices, take and
25 subscribe the following oath or affirmation before a person
26 authorized to administer oaths.

27 "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey
28 and defend the Constitution of the United States and the
29 Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the
30 duties of my office with fidelity."

1 [The oath or affirmation shall be administered to a member of
2 the Senate or to a member of the House of Representatives in the
3 hall of the House to which he shall have been elected.]

4 Any person refusing to take the oath or affirmation shall
5 forfeit his office.

6 (35) That section 4 of Article VI be amended to read:

7 § 4. Power of impeachment.

8 [The House of Representatives shall have the sole power of
9 impeachment.] The General Assembly shall have the sole power of
10 impeachment. A majority of the members elected to the General
11 Assembly must concur in the impeachment. Proceeding for
12 impeachment may be initiated in either a regular session or a
13 special session of the General Assembly.

14 (36) That section 5 of Article VI be amended to read:

15 § 5. Trial of impeachments.

16 [All impeachments shall be tried by the Senate. When sitting
17 for that purpose the Senators shall be upon oath or affirmation.
18 No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-
19 thirds of the members present.] Upon the adoption of a
20 resolution of impeachment, which resolution shall give
21 reasonable notice of the acts or omissions alleged to constitute
22 impeachable offenses but need not conform to any particular
23 style, a notice of an impeachment of any officer, other than a
24 justice of the Supreme Court, shall be forthwith served upon the
25 Chief Justice, by the Clerk of the General Assembly, who shall
26 thereupon call a session of the Supreme Court to meet at the
27 Capitol in an expeditious fashion after such notice to try the
28 impeachment. A notice of an impeachment of the Chief Justice or
29 any justice of the Supreme Court shall be served by the Clerk of
30 the General Assembly, upon the President Judge of the Superior

Court, and he or she thereupon shall choose, at random, seven judges of the Superior Court to meet within 30 days at the Capitol, to sit as a court to try such impeachment, which court shall organize by electing one of its number to preside. The case against the impeached civil officer shall be brought in the name of the General Assembly and shall be managed by two members of the General Assembly, appointed by the General Assembly, who may make technical or procedural amendments to the articles of impeachment as they deem necessary. The trial shall be conducted in the manner of a civil proceeding and the impeached civil officer shall not be allowed to invoke a privilege against self-incrimination, except as otherwise applicable in a general civil case. No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the court of impeachment that clear and convincing evidence exists indicating that such person is guilty of one or more impeachable offenses. No officer shall exercise his or her official duties after he or she shall have been impeached and notified thereof, until he or she shall have been acquitted.

(37) That section 7 of Article VI be amended to read:

§ 7. Removal of civil officers.

All civil officers shall hold their offices on the condition that they behave themselves well while in office, and shall be removed on conviction of misbehavior in office or of any infamous crime. Appointed civil officers, other than judges of the courts of record, may be removed at the pleasure of the power by which they shall have been appointed. All civil officers elected by the people, except the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, members of the General Assembly and judges of the courts of record, shall be removed by the Governor for

1 reasonable cause, after due notice and full hearing, on the
2 address of two-thirds of the [Senate] General Assembly.

3 (38) That section 2 of Article VII be amended to read:

4 § 2. General election day.

5 The general election shall be held biennially on the Tuesday
6 next following the first Monday of November in each even-
7 numbered year, but the General Assembly may by law fix a
8 different day, two-thirds of all the members [of each House]
9 consenting thereto: Provided, That such election shall always be
10 held in an even-numbered year.

11 (39) That section 3 of Article VII be amended to read:

12 § 3. Municipal election day; offices to be filled on election
13 days.

14 All judges elected by the electors of the State at large may
15 be elected at either a general or municipal election, as
16 circumstances may require. All elections for judges of the
17 courts for the several judicial districts, and for county, city,
18 ward, borough, and township officers, for regular terms of
19 service, shall be held on the municipal election day; namely,
20 the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November in each
21 odd-numbered year, but the General Assembly may by law fix a
22 different day, two-thirds of all the members [of each House]
23 consenting thereto: Provided, That such elections shall be held
24 in an odd-numbered year: Provided further, That all judges for
25 the courts of the several judicial districts holding office at
26 the present time, whose terms of office may end in an odd-
27 numbered year, shall continue to hold their offices until the
28 first Monday of January in the next succeeding even-numbered
29 year.

30 (40) That section 17(b) of Article VIII be amended to read:

1 § 17. Special emergency legislation.

2 * * *

3 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article III, section
4 29 subsequent to a Presidential declaration of an emergency or
5 of a major disaster in any part of this Commonwealth, the
6 General Assembly shall have the authority by a vote of two-
7 thirds of all members [elected to each House] to make
8 appropriations limited to moneys required for Federal emergency
9 or major disaster relief. This subsection may apply
10 retroactively to any Presidential declaration of an emergency or
11 of a major disaster in 1976 or 1977.

12 (41) That section 1 of Article XI be amended to read:

13 § 1. Proposal of amendments by the General Assembly and their
14 adoption.

15 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in the
16 [Senate or House of Representatives] General Assembly; and if
17 the same shall be agreed to by a majority of the members elected
18 [to each House], such proposed amendment or amendments shall be
19 entered on their journals with the yeas and nays taken thereon,
20 and the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall cause the same to be
21 published three months before the next general election, in at
22 least two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers
23 shall be published; and if, in the General Assembly next
24 afterwards chosen, such proposed amendment or amendments shall
25 be agreed to by a majority of the members elected [to each
26 House], the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall cause the same
27 again to be published in the manner aforesaid; and such proposed
28 amendment or amendments shall be submitted to the qualified
29 electors of the State in such manner, and at such time at least
30 three months after being so agreed to by the [two Houses]

1 General Assembly, as the General Assembly shall prescribe; and,
2 if such amendment or amendments shall be approved by a majority
3 of those voting thereon, such amendment or amendments shall
4 become a part of the Constitution; but no amendment or
5 amendments shall be submitted oftener than once in five years.
6 When two or more amendments shall be submitted they shall be
7 voted upon separately.

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

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

28 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
29 Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the
30 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to

1 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
2 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
3 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
4 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
5 passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

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