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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 302 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY COHEN, BARBIN, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, CARROLL,  
D. COSTA, DAVIDSON, DAVIS, DEASY, DeLUCA, KORTZ, MATZIE,  
McCARTER, McNEILL, O'BRIEN, PASHINSKI, READSHAW, SCHLOSSBERG,  
SCHREIBER, SCHWEYER, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD AND DEAN,  
FEBRUARY 2, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 2, 2015

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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

1 of a religious holiday or who cannot vote because of election  
2 day duties, in the case of a county employee, may vote, and for  
3 the return and canvass of their votes in the election district  
4 in which they respectively reside.] the following electors may  
5 vote absentee and for the return and canvass of their votes:

6 (1) Qualified electors who, on the occurrence of any  
7 election, may be absent from the municipality of their residence  
8 because their duties, occupation or business require them to be  
9 elsewhere.

10 (2) Qualified electors who, on the occurrence of any  
11 election, are unable to attend at their proper polling places  
12 because of illness or physical disability.

13 (3) Qualified electors who, on the occurrence of any  
14 election, will not attend a polling place because of the  
15 observance of a religious holiday.

16 (4) Qualified electors who are county employees who, on the  
17 occurrence of any election, cannot vote in person because of  
18 election day duties.

19 (5) Qualified electors who are 60 years of age or older.

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

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

1 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

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