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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1607 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY GIBBONS, KIM, TRUITT, McNEILL, SANKEY, GILLEN,  
MAHONEY AND MURT, OCTOBER 8, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 8, 2015

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution  
2 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for  
3 terms of members and for the Legislative Reapportionment  
4 Commission.

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

7 Section 1. The following separate and distinct amendments to  
8 the Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with  
9 Article XI:

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

11 § 3. Terms of members.

12 [Senators shall be elected for the term of four years and  
13 Representatives for the term of two years.]

14 (a) Senators shall be elected for the term of six years. No  
15 person shall hold the office of Senator for a period of longer  
16 than two successive terms of six years. Terms of Senators shall  
17 be considered successive unless separated by a period of six or  
18 more years. Representatives shall be elected for the term of

1 four years. No person shall hold the office of Representative  
2 for a period longer than three successive terms of four years.  
3 Terms of Representatives shall be considered successive unless  
4 separated by a period of four or more years.

5 (b) In determining the eligibility of an individual to hold  
6 office in accordance with subsection (a):

7 (1) Time spent in office in fulfillment of a term to which  
8 another person was first elected shall not be considered,  
9 provided that a period of at least six years for Senators and at  
10 least four years for Representatives passed between the time, if  
11 any, the individual previously held that office and the time the  
12 individual is elected to fulfill the unexpired term.

13 (2) A person who is elected to office in a regularly  
14 scheduled general election and resigns prior to the completion  
15 of the term for which the person was elected shall be considered  
16 to have served the full term in that office.

17 (c) Senators elected at the general election in 2014 and  
18 thereafter shall serve a six-year term. Senators now elected and  
19 those whose terms are unexpired shall represent the districts in  
20 which they reside until the end of the terms for which they were  
21 elected.

22 (d) Representatives in odd-numbered districts elected at the  
23 general election in 2014 shall serve a four-year term, and  
24 Representatives in even-numbered districts elected at the  
25 general election in 2014 shall serve a two-year term.  
26 Representatives in even-numbered districts elected at the  
27 general election in 2016 shall serve a four-year term.

28 (2) That section 17(f) of Article II be amended to read:  
29 § 17. Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

30 \* \* \*

1 (f) Any district which does not include the residence from  
2 which a member of the Senate or House of Representatives was  
3 elected whether or not scheduled for election at the next  
4 general election shall elect a Senator or Representative at such  
5 election.

6 \* \* \*

7 Section 2. The provisions of this resolution apply only to  
8 terms served by members of the General Assembly after the first  
9 election cycle following the ratification of this constitutional  
10 amendment and thereafter.

11 Section 3. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
12 Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the  
13 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to  
14 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article  
15 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the  
16 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in  
17 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after  
18 passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

19 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these  
20 proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the  
21 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the  
22 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the  
23 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required  
24 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such  
25 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of  
26 these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the  
27 Commonwealth shall submit the proposed constitutional amendment  
28 under section 1(1) to the qualified electors of this  
29 Commonwealth as a ballot question and the proposed  
30 constitutional amendment under section 1(2) to the electors of

1 this Commonwealth as a separate ballot question at the first  
2 primary, general or municipal election which meets the  
3 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article  
4 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least  
5 three months after the proposed constitutional amendments are  
6 passed by the General Assembly.