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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 521 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, VULAKOVICH, ALLOWAY, FOLMER, LEACH AND  
BROWNE, FEBRUARY 20, 2015

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for qualifications of  
3 certain judges.

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 12(b) of Article V be amended to read:

9 § 12. Qualifications of justices, judges and justices of the  
10 peace.

11 \* \* \*

12 (b) Judges of the traffic court in the City of Philadelphia  
13 and justices of the peace shall be members of the bar of the  
14 Supreme Court or shall complete a course of training and  
15 instruction in the duties of their respective offices and pass  
16 an examination prior to [assuming office] being nominated to  
17 fill vacancies pursuant to section 13(b) of this article or to  
18 filing a nomination petition for their respective offices. Such

1 courses and examinations shall be as provided by law.

2 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
3 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the  
4 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to  
5 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article  
6 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the  
7 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in  
8 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after  
9 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

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