
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1444 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY WALSH, SIMMONS, WARNER, BERNSTINE, MILLARD,
MALONEY, IRVIN, ZIMMERMAN, REESE, CIRESI, NELSON AND DOWLING,
MAY 13, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MAY 13, 2019

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, in local government, providing for
3 attendance at public meetings.

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 Article IX be amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 15. Attendance at public meetings.

10 (a) A member of the governing body of a unit of local
11 government shall attend a minimum of fifty percent of all
12 scheduled public meetings of the governing body in a calendar
13 year to maintain eligibility to hold the position.

14 (b) If a member of the governing body of a unit of local
15 government fails to attend more than fifty percent of the public
16 meetings in a calendar year, the remaining members of the
17 governing body may pass an ordinance instructing the municipal

1 solicitor to file a quo warranto action in the court of common
2 pleas requesting the removal of the absentee member of the
3 governing body.

4 (c) If a member of the governing body of a unit of local
5 government fails to attend a scheduled public meeting of the
6 governing body but provides proof that the absence was due to
7 illness or other employment, the absence shall not apply to
8 determining compliance with subsection (a).

9 (d) If a member of a governing body of a unit of local
10 government is removed from office for failure to comply with
11 subsection (a), the office shall be deemed vacant and filled
12 according to law.

13 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
14 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the
15 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to
16 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
17 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
18 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
19 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
20 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

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

1 primary, general or municipal election which meets the
2 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article
3 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least
4 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is
5 passed by the General Assembly.