
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2262 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY McCLINTON, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, HARKINS, MURT,
WILLIAMS, SANCHEZ, DONATUCCI, T. DAVIS, ISAACSON, A. DAVIS,
DAVIDSON, DAWKINS, YOUNGBLOOD, WEBSTER, SIMS, KENYATTA,
NEILSON, FITZGERALD, HOWARD, HOHENSTEIN, HARRIS, CEPHAS,
BOYLE, DeLISSIO, FIEDLER, FRANKEL AND GAINNEY,
FEBRUARY 18, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, in the executive, further providing for
3 pardoning power and Board of Pardons.

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 9(a) of Article IV of the Constitution of
9 Pennsylvania be amended to read:

10 § 9. Pardoning power; Board of Pardons.

11 (a) In all criminal cases except impeachment the Governor
12 shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures, to grant
13 reprieves, commutation of sentences and pardons; but no pardon
14 shall be granted, nor sentence commuted, except on the
15 recommendation in writing of a majority of the Board of Pardons,
16 and, in the case of a sentence of death or life imprisonment, on

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

7 * * *

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

16 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this
17 proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the
18 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the
19 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
20 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required
21 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such
22 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of
23 this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the
24 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment
25 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first
26 primary, general or municipal election which meets the
27 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article
28 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least
29 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is
30 passed by the General Assembly.