
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2605 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY DAY, YOUNGBLOOD, ROZZI AND SAPPEY, JUNE 23, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 23, 2020

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in legislature, further
3 providing for legislative districts and for Legislative
4 Reapportionment Commission.

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

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

10 (1) That section 16 of Article II be amended to read:

11 § 16. Legislative districts.

12 (a) The Commonwealth shall be divided into 50 senatorial and
13 203 representative districts, which shall be composed of compact
14 and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as
15 practicable[.], with a maximum deviation from the ideal
16 population of 10% except that a lower deviation may be
17 established under section 17.

18 (b) Each senatorial district shall elect one Senator, and
19 each representative district one Representative.

1 (c) Unless absolutely necessary to meet the equal population
2 requirement of subsection (a), no county, city, incorporated
3 town, borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming
4 either a senatorial or representative district.

5 (d) No election district may be divided in forming either a
6 senatorial or representative district.

7 (2) That section 17 of Article II be amended by adding a
8 subsection to read:

9 § 17. Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

10 * * *

11 (c.1) In addition to the requirements of section 16, the
12 following shall apply:

13 (1) The commission may establish a maximum deviation from
14 the ideal population of less than 10% for senatorial districts
15 if the lower deviation will not cause more counties, cities,
16 incorporated towns, boroughs, townships or wards to be divided
17 than would be divided under a plan with a maximum deviation of
18 10%.

19 (2) The commission may establish a maximum deviation from
20 the ideal population of less than 10% for representative
21 districts if the lower deviation will not cause more counties,
22 cities, incorporated towns, boroughs, townships or wards to be
23 divided than would be divided under a plan with a maximum
24 deviation of 10%.

25 * * *

26 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
27 Assembly of these proposed integrated constitutional amendments,
28 the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to
29 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
30 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the

1 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
2 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
3 passage of these proposed integrated constitutional amendments.

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