
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 33 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, FONTANA, BREWSTER, HUGHES, COSTA, STREET
AND COLLETT, JANUARY 11, 2019

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 11, 2019

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, in elections, further providing for absentee
3 voting.

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 14 of Article VII be amended to read:

9 § 14. Absentee voting.

10 (a) The Legislature shall, by general law, provide a manner
11 in which, and the time and place at which, qualified electors
12 [who may, on the occurrence of any election, be absent from the
13 municipality of their residence, because their duties,
14 occupation or business require them to be elsewhere or who, on
15 the occurrence of any election, are unable to attend at their
16 proper polling places because of illness or physical disability
17 or who will not attend a polling place because of the observance
18 of a religious holiday or who cannot vote because of election

1 day duties, in the case of a county employee,] may vote apart
2 from physically appearing at their designated polling place on
3 the day of an election, and for the return and canvass of their
4 votes in the election district in which they respectively
5 reside.

6 (b) For purposes of this section, "municipality" means a
7 city, borough, incorporated town, township or any similar
8 general purpose unit of government which may be created by the
9 General Assembly.

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

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

1 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is
2 passed by the General Assembly.