

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 411 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY FOLMER, SCHWANK, KILLION, ARGALL, STREET, BARTOLOTTA, BAKER, SANTARSIERO, COSTA, FARNESE, DISANTO, K. WARD, YUDICHAK, BLAKE, GORDNER, J. WARD, BROWNE, KEARNEY AND BREWSTER, MARCH 19, 2019

SENATOR FOLMER, STATE GOVERNMENT, AS AMENDED, JUNE 18, 2019

A JOINT RESOLUTION

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

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby resolves as follows:

5 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
6 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

7 That section 14 of Article VII be amended to read:

8 § 14. Absentee voting.

9 (a) The Legislature shall, by general law, provide a manner
10 in which, and the time and place at which, qualified electors

11 [who may, on the occurrence of any election, be absent from the <--

12 municipality of their residence, †because their duties, <--

13 occupation or business require them to be elsewhere or who, on

14 the occurrence of any election, are unable to attend at their

15 proper polling places because of illness or physical disability

16 or who will not attend a polling place because of the observance

1 of a religious holiday or who cannot vote because of election
2 day duties, in the case of a county employee,] may vote, and for
3 the return and canvass of their votes in the election district
4 in which they respectively reside. A LAW UNDER THIS SUBSECTION <--
5 MAY NOT REQUIRE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR TO PHYSICALLY APPEAR AT A
6 DESIGNATED POLLING PLACE ON THE DAY OF THE ELECTION.

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

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

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

1 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least
2 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is
3 passed by the General Assembly.