
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1898 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY OWLETT, RYAN, ROTHMAN, GROVE, JAMES, PENNYCUICK,
SMITH AND C. WILLIAMS, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, in the judiciary, further providing for
3 tenure of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

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 15(a) of Article V be amended to read:

9 § 15. Tenure of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

10 (a) The regular term of office of justices [and judges shall
11 be ten years and the regular term of office for], judges,

12 judges of the municipal court in the City of Philadelphia and of
13 justices of the peace shall be six years. The tenure of any
14 justice or judge shall not be affected by changes in judicial
15 districts or by reduction in the number of judges.

16 * * *

17 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
18 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the

1 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to
2 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
3 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
4 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
5 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
6 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

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