
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 694 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BARTOLOTTA, HAYWOOD, STREET, SCAVELLO, KEARNEY,
KANE, MUTH AND COMMITTA, MAY 19, 2021

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MAY 19, 2021

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
17 the [unanimous] recommendation in writing of four-fifths of the
18 Board of Pardons, after full hearing in open session, upon due

1 public notice. The recommendation, with the reasons therefor at
2 length, shall be delivered to the Governor and a copy thereof
3 shall be kept on file in the office of the Lieutenant Governor
4 in a docket kept for that purpose.

5 * * *

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

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