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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 884 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, STEFANO, J. WARD, HUTCHINSON, MENSCH  
AND PITTMAN, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution  
2 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for  
3 method of elections and secrecy in voting and for absentee  
4 voting and providing for permanent list prohibited.

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

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

10 (1) That section 4 of Article VII be amended to read:

11 § 4. Method of elections; secrecy in voting.

12 [All] (a) Except as permitted by absentee ballot under  
13 section 14, all elections by the citizens shall be by ballot [or  
14 by such other method as may be prescribed by law] cast in person  
15 by electors at their polling place: Provided, That secrecy in  
16 voting be preserved.

17 (b) Except in the case of a ballot cast by a qualified  
18 military or overseas elector, a ballot that is not cast in

1 person at a polling place must be received by a county board of  
2 elections no later than 5 o'clock P.M. on the Friday before an  
3 election.

4 (2) That section 14 of Article VII be amended by adding a  
5 subsection to read:

6 § 14. Absentee voting.

7 \* \* \*

8 (a.1) Each ballot returned that is not cast in person at a  
9 polling place shall be subject to signature verification.

10 \* \* \*

11 (3) That Article VII be amended by adding a section to read:

12 § 15. Permanent list prohibited.

13 The creation, existence or maintenance of a permanent list of  
14 qualified electors who vote by a ballot that is not cast in  
15 person at a polling place shall be prohibited.

16 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
17 Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the  
18 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to  
19 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article  
20 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the  
21 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in  
22 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after  
23 passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

24 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these  
25 proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the  
26 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the  
27 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the  
28 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required  
29 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such  
30 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of

1 these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the  
2 Commonwealth shall:

3           (1) Submit the proposed constitutional amendment under  
4 section 1(1) of this resolution to the qualified electors of  
5 this Commonwealth as a separate ballot question at the first  
6 primary, general or municipal election which meets the  
7 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of  
8 Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which  
9 occurs at least three months after the proposed  
10 constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.

11           (2) Submit the proposed constitutional amendment under  
12 section 1(2) of this resolution to the qualified electors of  
13 this Commonwealth as a separate ballot question at the first  
14 primary, general or municipal election which meets the  
15 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of  
16 Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which  
17 occurs at least three months after the proposed  
18 constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.