
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 940 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, J. WARD, MARTIN, BARTOLOTTA, MASTRIANO AND
SCAVELLO, NOVEMBER 9, 2021

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 9, 2021

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for proposal of amendments
3 by the General Assembly and their adoption.

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 1 of Article XI be amended to read:

9 § 1. Proposal of amendments by the General Assembly and their
10 adoption.

11 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in the Senate
12 or House of Representatives; and if the same shall be agreed to
13 by a majority of the members elected to each House, such
14 proposed amendment or amendments shall be entered on their
15 journals with the yeas and nays taken thereon, and the
16 [Secretary of the Commonwealth] Legislative Reference Bureau or
17 a successor legislative agency prescribed by the General
18 Assembly shall cause the same to be published three months

1 before the next general election, in at least two newspapers in
2 every county in which such newspapers shall be published[; and
3 if]. Such publication shall include only the language of the
4 amendment along with, as prepared by the Legislative Reference
5 Bureau or a successor legislative agency prescribed by the
6 General Assembly, both the question to be used on the ballot and
7 an accurate and factual summary of the amendment. If, in the
8 General Assembly next afterwards chosen, such proposed amendment
9 or amendments shall be agreed to by a majority of the members
10 elected to each House, the [Secretary of the Commonwealth]
11 Legislative Reference Bureau or a successor legislative agency
12 prescribed by the General Assembly shall cause the same again to
13 be published in the manner aforesaid; and such proposed
14 amendment or amendments shall be submitted to the qualified
15 electors of the State in such manner, and at such time at least
16 three months after being so agreed to by the two Houses, as the
17 General Assembly shall prescribe; and, if such amendment or
18 amendments shall be approved by a majority of those voting
19 thereon, such amendment or amendments shall become a part of the
20 Constitution; but no amendment or amendments shall be submitted
21 oftener than once in five years. When two or more amendments
22 shall be submitted they shall be voted upon separately.

23 (a) In the event a major emergency threatens or is about to
24 threaten the Commonwealth and if the safety or welfare of the
25 Commonwealth requires prompt amendment of this Constitution,
26 such amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in the
27 Senate or House of Representatives at any regular or special
28 session of the General Assembly, and if agreed to by at least
29 two-thirds of the members elected to each House, a proposed
30 amendment shall be entered on the journal of each House with the

1 yeas and nays taken thereon and the [official in charge of
2 statewide elections] Legislative Reference Bureau or a successor
3 legislative agency prescribed by the General Assembly shall
4 promptly publish such proposed amendment in at least two
5 newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are
6 published. Such publication shall include only the language of
7 the amendment along with, as prepared by the Legislative
8 Reference Bureau or a successor legislative agency prescribed by
9 the General Assembly, both the question to be used on the ballot
10 and an accurate and factual summary of the amendment. Such
11 amendment shall then be submitted to the qualified electors of
12 the Commonwealth in such manner, and at such time, at least one
13 month after being agreed to by both Houses as the General
14 Assembly prescribes.

15 (b) If an emergency amendment is approved by a majority of
16 the qualified electors voting thereon, it shall become part of
17 this Constitution. When two or more emergency amendments are
18 submitted they shall be voted on separately.

19 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
20 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the
21 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to
22 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
23 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
24 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
25 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
26 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary
27 of the Commonwealth shall issue a report on the publication
28 required under this subsection to the Secretary of the Senate
29 and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives four months
30 prior to the next general election.

1 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this
2 proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the
3 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the
4 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
5 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required
6 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such
7 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of
8 this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the
9 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment
10 as a single ballot question to the qualified electors of this
11 Commonwealth at the first primary, general or municipal election
12 which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with
13 section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and
14 which occurs at least three months after the proposed
15 constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly. The
16 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall issue a report on the
17 publication required under this subsection to the Secretary of
18 the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
19 four months prior to the first primary, general or municipal
20 election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance
21 with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania
22 and which occurs at least three months after the proposed
23 constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.