
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 547 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY ZIMMERMAN, STAMBAUGH, KAUFFMAN, PICKETT, MOUL,
FINK AND GLEIM, MARCH 20, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 20, 2023

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for the election and
3 qualifications of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

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

6 Section 1. The following integrated amendments to the
7 Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with
8 Article XI:

9 (1) That Article IV be amended by adding a section to read:
10 § 4.2. Secretary of the Commonwealth.

11 A Secretary of the Commonwealth shall be chosen by the
12 qualified electors of the Commonwealth on the day the general
13 election is held for the Auditor General, State Treasurer and
14 Attorney General. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall hold
15 office during four years from the third Tuesday of January next
16 ensuing his or her election and shall not be eligible to serve
17 continuously for more than two successive terms. The Secretary
18 of the Commonwealth shall be the chief elections officer of the

1 Commonwealth and shall exercise such powers and perform such
2 duties as may be imposed by law.

3 (2) That section 5 of Article IV be amended to read:

4 § 5. Qualifications of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary
5 of the Commonwealth and Attorney General.

6 No person shall be eligible to the office of Governor,
7 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth or Attorney
8 General except a citizen of the United States, who shall have
9 attained the age of 30 years, and have been seven years next
10 preceding his election an inhabitant of this Commonwealth,
11 unless he shall have been absent on the public business of the
12 United States or of this Commonwealth. No person shall be
13 eligible to the office of Attorney General except a member of
14 the bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

15 (3) That section 6 of Article IV be amended to read:

16 § 6. Disqualification for offices of Governor, Lieutenant
17 Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth and Attorney
18 General.

19 No member of Congress or person holding any office (except of
20 attorney-at-law or in the National Guard or in a reserve
21 component of the armed forces of the United States) under the
22 United States or this Commonwealth shall exercise the office of
23 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth or
24 Attorney General.

25 (4) That section 17 of Article IV be amended to read:

26 § 17. Contested elections of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
27 Secretary of the Commonwealth and Attorney General;
28 when succeeded.

29 The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall preside upon the
30 trial of any contested election of Governor, Lieutenant

1 Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth or Attorney General and
2 shall decide questions regarding the admissibility of evidence,
3 and shall, upon request of the committee, pronounce his opinion
4 upon other questions of law involved in the trial. The Governor,
5 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth and Attorney
6 General shall exercise the duties of their respective offices
7 until their successors shall be duly qualified.

8 Section 2. Upon approval of the addition of section 4.2 of
9 Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania by the electors,
10 there shall be a vacancy in the office of the Secretary of the
11 Commonwealth which shall be filled as provided in section 4.2 of
12 Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

13 Section 3. The following procedure applies to the proposed
14 constitutional amendments in this joint resolution:

15 (1) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of
16 the amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
17 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
18 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
19 of Pennsylvania.

20 (2) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of
21 the amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
22 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
23 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
24 of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
25 submit the amendments to the qualified electors of this
26 Commonwealth as a single ballot question at the first
27 primary, general or municipal election which meets the
28 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
29 of Pennsylvania.