
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 125 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY BIZZARRO, ZABEL, CIRESI, McNEILL, N. NELSON, RABB,
SCHLOSSBERG, SANCHEZ, T. DAVIS, D. WILLIAMS, GUENST, MADDEN,
WARREN, SHUSTERMAN, DEASY, STURLA AND FREEMAN, MARCH 7, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 7, 2023

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] at least two-thirds of the members elected to
14 each House, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be
15 entered on their journals with the yeas and nays taken thereon,
16 and the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall cause the same to be
17 published three months before the next general election, in at

1 least two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers
2 shall be published; and if, in the General Assembly next
3 afterwards chosen, such proposed amendment or amendments shall
4 be agreed to by [a majority] at least two-thirds of the members
5 elected to each House, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
6 cause the same again to be published in the manner aforesaid;
7 and such proposed amendment or amendments shall be submitted to
8 the qualified electors of the State in such manner, and at such
9 time at least three months after being so agreed to by the two
10 Houses, as the General Assembly shall prescribe; and, if such
11 amendment or amendments shall be approved by a majority of those
12 voting thereon, such amendment or amendments shall become a part
13 of the Constitution; but no amendment or amendments shall be
14 submitted oftener than once in five years. When two or more
15 amendments shall be submitted they shall be voted upon
16 separately.

17 (a) In the event a major emergency threatens or is about to
18 threaten the Commonwealth and if the safety or welfare of the
19 Commonwealth requires prompt amendment of this Constitution,
20 such amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in the
21 Senate or House of Representatives at any regular or special
22 session of the General Assembly, and if agreed to by at least
23 two-thirds of the members elected to each House, a proposed
24 amendment shall be entered on the journal of each House with the
25 yeas and nays taken thereon and the official in charge of
26 statewide elections shall promptly publish such proposed
27 amendment in at least two newspapers in every county in which
28 such newspapers are published. Such amendment shall then be
29 submitted to the qualified electors of the Commonwealth in such
30 manner, and at such time, at least one month after being agreed

1 to by both Houses as the General Assembly prescribes.

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

6 Section 2. The following procedure applies to the proposed
7 constitutional amendment in this joint resolution:

8 (1) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of
9 the amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
10 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
11 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
12 of Pennsylvania.

13 (2) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of
14 the amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
15 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
16 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
17 of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
18 submit the amendment to the qualified electors of this
19 Commonwealth at the first general election which meets the
20 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
21 of Pennsylvania.