
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1348 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY KEEFER, JAMES, KAUFFMAN, ROWE, GLEIM AND T. JONES,
JUNE 7, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 7, 2023

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, abolishing the office of
3 Lieutenant Governor.

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 section 9 of Article II be amended to read:

10 § 9. Election of officers; judge of election and qualifications
11 of members.

12 The Senate shall, at the beginning and close of each regular
13 session and at such other times as may be necessary, elect one
14 of its members President pro tempore[, who shall perform the
15 duties of the Lieutenant Governor, in any case of absence or
16 disability of that officer, and whenever the said office of
17 Lieutenant Governor shall be vacant]. The House of
18 Representatives shall elect one of its members as Speaker. Each

1 House shall choose its other officers, and shall judge of the
2 election and qualifications of its members.

3 (2) That section 1 of Article IV be amended to read:

4 § 1. Executive Department.

5 The Executive Department of this Commonwealth shall consist
6 of a Governor, [Lieutenant Governor,] Attorney General, Auditor
7 General, State Treasurer, and Superintendent of Public
8 Instruction and such other officers as the General Assembly may
9 from time to time prescribe.

10 (3) That section 4 of Article IV be amended to read:

11 [§ 4. Lieutenant Governor.

12 A Lieutenant Governor shall be chosen jointly with the
13 Governor by the casting by each voter of a single vote
14 applicable to both offices, for the same term, and subject to
15 the same provisions as the Governor; he shall be President of
16 the Senate. As such, he may vote in case of a tie on any
17 question except the final passage of a bill or joint resolution,
18 the adoption of a conference report or the concurrence in
19 amendments made by the House of Representatives.]

20 (4) That section 5 of Article IV be amended to read:

21 § 5. Qualifications of Governor[, Lieutenant Governor] and
22 Attorney General.

23 No person shall be eligible to the office of Governor[,
24 Lieutenant Governor] or Attorney General except a citizen of the
25 United States, who shall have attained the age of 30 years, and
26 have been seven years next preceding his election an inhabitant
27 of this Commonwealth, unless he shall have been absent on the
28 public business of the United States or of this Commonwealth. No
29 person shall be eligible to the office of Attorney General
30 except a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

1 (5) That section 6 of Article IV be amended to read:

2 § 6. Disqualification for offices of Governor[, Lieutenant
3 Governor] and Attorney General.

4 No member of Congress or person holding any office (except of
5 attorney-at-law or in the National Guard or in a reserve
6 component of the armed forces of the United States) under the
7 United States or this Commonwealth shall exercise the office of
8 Governor[, Lieutenant Governor] or Attorney General.

9 (6) That section 9 of Article IV 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 the Board of Pardons,
18 after full hearing in open session, upon due public notice. The
19 recommendation, with the reasons therefor at length, shall be
20 delivered to the Governor and a copy thereof shall be kept on
21 file in the office of the [Lieutenant] Governor in a docket kept
22 for that purpose.

23 (b) The Board of Pardons shall consist of the [Lieutenant
24 Governor] Attorney General who shall be chairman[, the Attorney
25 General and three] and four members appointed by the Governor
26 with the consent of a majority of the members elected to the
27 Senate for terms of six years. The [three] members appointed by
28 the Governor shall be residents of Pennsylvania. One shall be a
29 crime victim, one a corrections expert [and the third], one a
30 doctor of medicine, psychiatrist or psychologist and one a law

1 enforcement officer. The board shall keep records of its
2 actions, which shall at all times be open for public inspection.

3 (7) That section 13 of Article IV be amended to read:

4 § 13. When [Lieutenant Governor] President pro tempore of the
5 Senate to act as Governor.

6 (a) In the case of the death, conviction on impeachment,
7 failure to qualify or resignation of the Governor, the
8 [Lieutenant Governor] President pro tempore of the Senate shall
9 become Governor for the remainder of the term [and in].

10 (b) In the case of the disability of the Governor, the
11 powers, duties and emoluments of the office shall devolve upon
12 the [Lieutenant Governor] President pro tempore of the Senate
13 until the disability is removed.

14 (8) That section 17 of Article IV be amended to read:

15 § 17. Contested elections of Governor[, Lieutenant Governor]
16 and Attorney General; when succeeded.

17 The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall preside upon the
18 trial of any contested election of Governor[, Lieutenant
19 Governor] or Attorney General and shall decide questions
20 regarding the admissibility of evidence, and shall, upon request
21 of the committee, pronounce his opinion upon other questions of
22 law involved in the trial. The Governor[, Lieutenant Governor]
23 and Attorney General shall exercise the duties of their
24 respective offices until their successors shall be duly
25 qualified.

26 (9) That section 7 of Article VI be amended to read:

27 § 7. Removal of civil officers.

28 All civil officers shall hold their offices on the condition
29 that they behave themselves well while in office, and shall be
30 removed on conviction of misbehavior in office or of any

1 infamous crime. Appointed civil officers, other than judges of
2 the courts of record, may be removed at the pleasure of the
3 power by which they shall have been appointed. All civil
4 officers elected by the people, except the Governor, [the
5 Lieutenant Governor,] members of the General Assembly and judges
6 of the courts of record, shall be removed by the Governor for
7 reasonable cause, after due notice and full hearing, on the
8 address of two-thirds of the Senate.

9 Section 2. The Lieutenant Governor who holds office on the
10 passage of these constitutional amendments shall be entitled to
11 complete such term of office.

12 Section 3. (a) Upon passage by the General Assembly of
13 these proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the
14 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the
15 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
16 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required
17 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such
18 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of
19 these proposed constitutional amendments to permit publication
20 at least three months before the next general election.

21 (b) Upon the second passage of these proposed constitutional
22 amendments by the General Assembly, the Secretary of the
23 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the
24 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
25 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required
26 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such
27 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of
28 these proposed constitutional amendments to permit publication
29 at least three months before the next general election. The
30 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall submit these proposed

1 constitutional amendments to the qualified electors of this
2 Commonwealth at the first general or municipal election
3 occurring at least three months after the proposed
4 constitutional amendments are passed by the General Assembly and
5 conforming to section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of
6 Pennsylvania.