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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 54 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY OWLETT, HAMM, JAMES, ZIMMERMAN, M. JONES AND ROWE,  
MARCH 7, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 7, 2023

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for tenure of justices,  
3 judges and justices of the peace.

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 15(a) of Article V be amended to read:

9 § 15. Tenure of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

10 (a) The regular term of office of justices [and judges shall  
11 be ten years and the regular term of office for], judges, judges  
12 of the municipal court in the City of Philadelphia and of  
13 justices of the peace shall be six years. The tenure of any  
14 justice or judge shall not be affected by changes in judicial  
15 districts or by reduction in the number of judges.

16 \* \* \*

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

1           (1) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of  
2 the amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall  
3 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising  
4 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution  
5 of Pennsylvania.

6           (2) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of  
7 the amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall  
8 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising  
9 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution  
10 of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall  
11 submit the amendment to the qualified electors of this  
12 Commonwealth at the first primary, general or municipal  
13 election which meets the requirements of section 1 of Article  
14 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.