
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1080 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY ARNOLD, ARGALL, MENSCH AND SCAVELLO, JUNE 22, 2020

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, JUNE 22, 2020

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, in the executive, further providing for
3 pardoning power and Board of Pardons.

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 9(a) of Article IV be amended to read:

9 § 9. Pardoning power; Board of Pardons.

10 (a) In all criminal cases except impeachment the Governor
11 shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures, to grant
12 reprieves, commutation of sentences and pardons; but no pardon
13 nor reprieve shall be granted, nor sentence commuted, except on
14 the recommendation in writing of a majority of the Board of
15 Pardons, and, in the case of a sentence of death or life
16 imprisonment, on the unanimous recommendation in writing of the
17 Board of Pardons, after full hearing in open session, upon due
18 public notice. The recommendation, with the reasons therefor at

1 length, shall be delivered to the Governor and a copy thereof
2 shall be kept on file in the office of the Lieutenant Governor
3 in a docket kept for that purpose.

4 * * *

5 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
6 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the
7 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to
8 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
9 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
10 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
11 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
12 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

13 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this
14 proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the
15 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the
16 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
17 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required
18 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such
19 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of
20 this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the
21 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment
22 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first
23 primary, general or municipal election which meets the
24 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article
25 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least
26 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is
27 passed by the General Assembly.