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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1718 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY M. BROWN, ECKER, FLICK, MALONEY AND ZIMMERMAN,  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, providing for removal of municipal officers.

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

5 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of  
6 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

7 That Article IX be amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 15. Removal of municipal officers.

9 The General Assembly shall provide, by uniform general law or  
10 by classification, for the removal of elected officers of a  
11 municipality. Elected officers shall be removed only for cause  
12 as defined by the General Assembly. Cause shall include  
13 absenteeism from meetings, dereliction of duty, inappropriate  
14 moral conduct or abuse of power. The authorization provided by  
15 this section shall not preclude the use of other provisions  
16 contained in this Constitution for the disqualification,  
17 impeachment or removal of municipal officers.

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

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

8 (2) Upon the second 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. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall  
13 submit the amendment to the qualified electors of this  
14 Commonwealth at the first primary, general or municipal  
15 election which meets the requirements of section 1 of Article  
16 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.