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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 153 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY KNOWLES, TURZAI, REED, METCALFE, DUNBAR, MUSTIO,  
D. COSTA, GREINER, BLOOM, MACKENZIE, SAYLOR, CORBIN, SACCONE,  
HELM, BARRAR, MULLERY, M. K. KELLER, GRELL, KAUFFMAN,  
KAVULICH, HEFFLEY, CARROLL, ROAE, A. HARRIS, MENTZER, DEASY,  
GROVE, TRUITT, MAJOR, MURT, TALLMAN AND MARSICO,  
JANUARY 22, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 22, 2015

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, reducing the size of the General Assembly.

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 section 16 of Article II be amended to read:

8 § 16. Legislative districts.

9 The Commonwealth shall be divided into 50 senatorial and  
10 [203] 153 representative districts, which shall be composed of  
11 compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population  
12 as practicable. Each senatorial district shall elect one  
13 Senator, and each representative district one Representative.  
14 Unless absolutely necessary no county, city, incorporated town,  
15 borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming either a

1 senatorial or representative district.

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

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

25 Section 3. Upon ratification by the electors, the General  
26 Assembly shall enact legislation to implement this  
27 constitutional amendment so that it applies for the first time  
28 to the first session of the General Assembly which begins after  
29 the 2020 reapportionment.