
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1778 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MARSHALL, V. BROWN, COHEN, D. COSTA, GALLOWAY,
GIBBONS, HELM, PHILLIPS-HILL, KIM, KINSEY, O'BRIEN, READSHAW,
SCHLOSSBERG, THOMAS, VITALI, WARD AND ZIMMERMAN,
JANUARY 6, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 6, 2016

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for absentee voting.

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 14 of Article VII be amended to read:

8 § 14. Absentee voting.

9 (a) The Legislature shall, by general law, provide a manner
10 in which, and the time and place at which, [qualified electors
11 who may, on the occurrence of any election, be absent from the
12 municipality of their residence, because their duties,
13 occupation or business require them to be elsewhere or who, on
14 the occurrence of any election, are unable to attend at their
15 proper polling places because of illness or physical disability
16 or who will not attend a polling place because of the observance

1 of a religious holiday or who cannot vote because of election
2 day duties, in the case of a county employee,] any qualified
3 elector may vote by absentee ballot, and for the return and
4 canvass of their votes in the election district in which they
5 respectively reside.

6 [(b) For purposes of this section, "municipality" means a
7 city, borough, incorporated town, township or any similar
8 general purpose unit of government which may be created by the
9 General Assembly.]

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

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

1 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is
2 passed by the General Assembly.