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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2236 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY GIBBONS, KIM, EVERETT, CUTLER, LUCAS, AUMENT,  
GRELL, READSHAW, HAGGERTY, MAHONEY, COHEN, MURT, SWANGER,  
MULLERY, D. COSTA AND D. MILLER, MAY 5, 2014

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 5, 2014

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the  
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for terms of  
3 members and for the Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

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

6 Section 1. The following integrated amendments to the  
7 Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with  
8 Article XI:

9 (1) That section 3 of Article II be amended to read:

10 § 3. Terms of members.

11 [Senators shall be elected for the term of four years and  
12 Representatives for the term of two years.]

13 (a) Senators shall be elected for the term of six years. No  
14 person shall hold the office of Senator for a period of longer  
15 than two successive terms of six years. Terms of Senators shall  
16 be considered successive unless separated by a period of six or  
17 more years. Representatives shall be elected for the term of

1 four years. No person shall hold the office of Representative  
2 for a period longer than three successive terms of four years.  
3 Terms of Representatives shall be considered successive unless  
4 separated by a period of four or more years.

5 (b) In determining the eligibility of an individual to hold  
6 office in accordance with subsection (a):

7 (1) Time spent in office in fulfillment of a term to which  
8 another person was first elected shall not be considered,  
9 provided that a period of at least six years for Senators and at  
10 least four years for Representatives passed between the time, if  
11 any, the individual previously held that office and the time the  
12 individual is elected to fulfill the unexpired term.

13 (2) A person who is elected to office in a regularly  
14 scheduled general election and resigns prior to the completion  
15 of the term for which the person was elected shall be considered  
16 to have served the full term in that office.

17 (c) Senators in even-numbered districts elected at the  
18 general election in 2014 shall serve a six-year term. Senators  
19 in odd-numbered districts elected at the general election in  
20 2014 shall serve a six-year term. Senators now elected and those  
21 whose terms are unexpired shall represent the districts in which  
22 they reside until the end of the terms for which they were  
23 elected.

24 (d) Representatives in odd-numbered districts elected at the  
25 general election in 2014 shall serve a four-year term, and  
26 Representatives in even-numbered districts elected at the  
27 general election in 2014 shall serve a two-year term.  
28 Representatives in even-numbered districts elected at the  
29 general election in 2016 shall serve a four-year term.

30 (2) That section 17(f) of Article II be amended to read:

1 § 17. Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

2 \* \* \*

3 (f) Any district which does not include the residence from  
4 which a member of the Senate or House of Representatives was  
5 elected whether or not scheduled for election at the next  
6 general election shall elect a Senator or Representative at such  
7 election.

8 \* \* \*

9 Section 2. The provisions of this resolution apply only to  
10 terms served by members of the General Assembly after the first  
11 election cycle following the ratification of this constitutional  
12 amendment and thereafter.

13 Section 3. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
14 Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the  
15 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to  
16 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article  
17 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the  
18 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in  
19 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after  
20 passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

21 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these  
22 proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the  
23 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the  
24 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the  
25 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required  
26 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such  
27 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of  
28 these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the  
29 Commonwealth shall submit the proposed constitutional amendments  
30 under section 1 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth

1 as a single ballot question at the first primary, general or  
2 municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in  
3 conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of  
4 Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the  
5 proposed constitutional amendments are passed by the General  
6 Assembly.