

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 273 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY YAW, STEFANO AND J. WARD, JANUARY 31, 2023

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 31, 2023

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for judicial
3 administration.

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 10(d) of Article V be amended to read:

9 § 10. Judicial administration.

10 * * *

11 (d) The Chief Justice [~~and~~], as well as president judges of
12 all courts with [~~seven~~] two or less judges, shall be the justice
13 or judge longest in continuous service on their respective
14 courts; and in the event of [~~his~~] a resignation from this
15 position the justice or judge next longest in continuous service
16 shall be the Chief Justice or president judge. The president
17 judges of all other courts shall be selected for five-year terms
18 by the members of their respective courts. A Chief Justice or

1 president judge may resign such position and remain a member of
2 the court. In the event of a tie vote for office of president
3 judge in a court which elects its president judge, the Supreme
4 Court shall appoint as president judge one of the judges
5 receiving the highest number of votes.

6 * * *

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

9 (1) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of
10 the amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
11 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
12 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
13 of Pennsylvania.

14 (2) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of
15 the amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
16 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
17 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
18 of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
19 submit the amendment to the qualified electors of this
20 Commonwealth at the first primary, general or municipal
21 election which meets the requirements of section 1 of Article
22 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.