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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1520 Session of  
1997

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INTRODUCED BY GANNON, DALEY, COY, RUBLEY, BOSCOLA, FARGO,  
LEDERER, EGOLF, BENNINGHOFF, WOGAN, TRAVAGLIO, DALLY, THOMAS,  
HENNESSEY, BROWNE, TRELLO, ROSS AND CIVERA, MAY 15, 1997

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MAY 15, 1997

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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 I be amended to read:

8 § 14. Prisoners to be bailable; habeas corpus.

9 All prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient sureties,  
10 unless for capital offenses or for offenses for which the  
11 maximum sentence is life imprisonment or unless no condition or  
12 combination of conditions other than imprisonment will  
13 reasonably assure the safety of any person and the community  
14 when the proof is evident or presumption great; and the  
15 privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended,  
16 unless when in case of rebellion or invasion the public safety  
17 may require it.

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

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