

(This Joint Resolution No.2 was passed for the first time at the Legislative Session of 1982 as Joint Resolution No.1 and for the second time at the Legislative Session of 1984 and was approved by the electorate on November 6, 1984.)

No. 1984-2

A JOINT RESOLUTION

SB 299

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, permitting the use of suppressed voluntary admissions or confessions to impeach a defendant's credibility.

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

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

That section 9 of Article I be amended to read:

§ 9. Rights of accused in criminal prosecutions.

In all criminal prosecutions the accused hath a right to be heard by himself and his counsel, to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him, to meet the witnesses face to face, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and, in prosecutions by indictment or information, a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the vicinage; he cannot be compelled to give evidence against himself, nor can he be deprived of his life, liberty or property, unless by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land. *The use of a suppressed voluntary admission or voluntary confession to impeach the credibility of a person may be permitted and shall not be construed as compelling a person to give evidence against himself.*

Section 2. This proposed amendment shall be submitted by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to the qualified electors throughout the Commonwealth at the primary, municipal or general election next held after the advertising requirements of Article XI, section 1, of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been satisfied.