A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing separate amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for rights of accused in criminal prosecutions and for judicial administration.

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

Section 1. The following separate amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with Article XI:

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


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] be confronted with the witnesses against him, 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.

(2) That section 10(c) of Article V be amended to read:

§ 10. Judicial administration.

* * *

(c) The Supreme Court shall have the power to prescribe
general rules governing practice, procedure and the conduct of
all courts, justices of the peace and all officers serving
process or enforcing orders, judgments or decrees of any court
or justice of the peace, including the power to provide for
assignment and reassignment of classes of actions or classes of
appeals among the several courts as the needs of justice shall
require, and for admission to the bar and to practice law, and
the administration of all courts and supervision of all officers
of the Judicial Branch, if such rules are consistent with this
Constitution and neither abridge, enlarge nor modify the
substantive rights of any litigant, nor affect the right of the
General Assembly to determine the jurisdiction of any court or
justice of the peace, nor suspend nor alter any statute of
limitation or repose. All laws shall be suspended to the extent
that they are inconsistent with rules prescribed under these
provisions. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the
General Assembly may by statute provide for the manner of
testimony of child victims or child material witnesses in
criminal proceedings, including the use of videotaped
depositions or testimony by closed-circuit television.

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

(b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall submit the proposed constitutional amendments under section 1 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth as separate ballot questions at the first primary, general or municipal election occurring at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendments are passed by the General Assembly.