A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by providing for additional judges for the Superior Court, changing certain provisions relating to confirmation and initial terms, and further providing for the president judge of the Superior Court.

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

3 Section 1. The following amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with the provisions of Article XI

4 That section 3 and subsection (b) of section 13 of Article V and section 11 of the Schedule to Article V be amended to read:

5 ARTICLE V

6 THE JUDICIARY

7 § 3. Superior Court.

8 The Superior Court shall be a statewide court, and shall consist of the number of judges, which shall be not less than seven judges, [one of whom shall be the president judge,] and [its] have such jurisdiction as shall be [as] provided by [law]
1  this Constitution or by the General Assembly. One of its judges
2  shall be the president judge.
3  § 13. Election of justices, judges and justices of the peace;
4  vacancies.
5  * * *
6  (b) A vacancy in the office of justice, judge or justice of
7  the peace shall be filled by appointment by the Governor. The
8  appointment shall be with the advice and consent of two-thirds
9  of the members elected to the Senate, except in the case of
10  justices of the peace which shall be by a majority. The person
11  so appointed shall serve for [an initial] A term ending on the
12  first Monday of January following the next municipal election
13  more than ten months after the vacancy occurs OR FOR THE
14  REMAINDER OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM WHICHEVER IS LESS, except in the
15  case of persons selected as additional judges to the Superior
16  Court, where the General Assembly may stagger and fix the length
17  of the initial terms of such additional judges by reference to
18  any of the first, second and third municipal elections more than
19  ten months after the additional judges are selected. The manner
20  by which any additional judges are selected shall be provided by
21  the General Assembly THIS SECTION FOR THE FILLING OF VACANCIES
22  IN JUDICIAL OFFICES
23  * * *
24  SCHEDULE TO JUDICIARY ARTICLE
25  § 11. Selection of president judges.
26  (a) Except in the City of Philadelphia, section 10(d) of the
27  article shall become effective upon the expiration of the term
28  of the present president judge, or upon earlier vacancy.
29  (b) Notwithstanding section 10(d) of the article the
30  president judge of the Superior Court shall be the judge longest
in continuous service on such court if such judge was a member of such court on the first Monday of January 1977. If no such judge exists or is willing to serve as president judge the president judge shall be selected as provided by this article.