

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL**No. 171** Session of
1997

INTRODUCED BY HERMAN, CLYMER, MELIO, TRELLO, WOJNAROSKI,
FLEAGLE, GODSHALL, PLATTS, WAUGH, COWELL, SCHULER, GEIST,
SAYLOR, COY, FARGO, PESCI, CLARK, KAISER, SEMMEL, B. SMITH,
TIGUE, MILLER, WOGAN, ARGALL, COLAIZZO, VAN HORNE, OLASZ,
BOSCOLA, SCRIMENTI, STERN, SHANER, BARD, L. I. COHEN, CARONE,
HENNESSEY, C. WILLIAMS AND STEELMAN, FEBRUARY 3, 1997

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 3, 1997

A JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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 VII be amended to read:

8 § 14. Absentee voting.

9 (a) The Legislature shall, by general law, provide a manner
10 in which, and the time and place at which, qualified electors
11 who may, on the occurrence of any election, be absent from the
12 [State or county] municipality of their residence, because their
13 duties, occupation or business require them to be elsewhere or
14 who, on the occurrence of any election, are unable to attend at
15 their proper polling places because of illness or physical

1 disability or who will not attend a polling place because of the
2 observance of a religious holiday or who cannot vote because of
3 election day duties, in the case of a county employee, may vote,
4 and for the return and canvass of their votes in the election
5 district in which they respectively reside.

6 (b) For purposes of this section, "municipality" means a
7 city, borough, incorporated town, township or any similar
8 general purpose unit of government which may be created by the
9 General Assembly.

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

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

1 conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of
2 Pennsylvania.