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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**

**No. 171**      Session of  
1997

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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, STEELMAN, TULLI, EGOLF AND ROSS,  
FEBRUARY 3, 1997

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 3, 1997

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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

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

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

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

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

1 the General Assembly which meets the requirements of and is in  
2 conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of  
3 Pennsylvania.