A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an emergency Constitutional amendment to the
2 Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granting the
3 General Assembly the power to enact special laws to aid
4 certain individuals, corporations, associations, institutions
5 or nonpublic schools adversely affected by conditions caused
6 by certain storms or floods. PROVIDING THAT SPECIAL EMERGENCY
7 LEGISLATION MAY BE ENACTED WHEN FEDERAL EMERGENCY OR DISASTER
8 ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

10 hereby resolves as follows:

11 Section 1. Many Pennsylvanians have suffered greatly from
12 the ravages of great storms and floods in recent years. The
13 great storms or floods of 1974, 1975, and 1976 AND 1977
14 were additional major disasters causing loss of life and great
15 damage and destruction to property of individuals, industrial
16 and commercial establishments and public facilities.
17 Further, due to an extreme winter with especially heavy
18 snowfall throughout much of the Commonwealth the probability of
19 flooding this spring threatens.
20 It is imperative that the victims of these disasters receive
the fullest possible aid from both the Federal Government and
the Commonwealth in order to accomplish a speedy recovery.

The General Assembly desires to alleviate such storm or
economic deprivation caused by the floods in past years and

THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THROUGH ENACTMENT OF THE
DISASTER RELIEF ACT OF 1974, PUBLIC LAW 93-288, HAS AUTHORIZED
THE MAKING OF CERTAIN DISASTER RELIEF GRANTS. THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY WISHES TO MAKE SUCH FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF GRANTS, OR
OTHER GRANTS MADE AVAILABLE FROM FEDERAL PROGRAMS HEREAFTER
ENACTED, AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN ORDER
TO ALLEVIATE THE DEPRIVATION CAUSED BY STORMS OR FLOODS WHICH
HAVE OCCURRED IN THE PAST AND seeks to address those emergencies
of future years. However, the General Assembly is limited by
rigid restrictions in the Constitution of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania. The safety and welfare of the Commonwealth
requires the prompt amendment to the Constitution to aid those
already inflicted by the great storm STORMS of 1976 OR 1977 and
any future emergency that may strike Commonwealth citizens.

Therefore, the following amendment to the Constitution of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with the
emergency provisions of Article XI thereof:

That section 17 of Article VIII be amended to read:

ARTICLE VIII

§ 17. Special Emergency Legislation.

(A) Notwithstanding any provisions of this Constitution to
the contrary, the General Assembly shall have the authority to
enact laws providing for tax rebates, credits, exemptions,
grants-in-aid, State supplementations, or otherwise provide
special provisions for individuals, corporations, associations
or nonprofit institutions, including nonpublic schools (whether sectarian or nonsectarian) in order to alleviate the danger, damage, suffering or hardship faced by such individuals, corporations, associations, institutions or nonpublic schools as a result of Great Storms or Floods of September 1971, of June 1972, or of 1974, or of 1975, or of 1976, or of 1977, or the emergencies occurring as a result of the energy crisis of 1976-1977.

(B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS CONSTITUTION TO THE CONTRARY, SUBSEQUENT TO A PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY OR OF A MAJOR DISASTER IN ANY PART OF THIS COMMONWEALTH, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS LIMITED TO MONEYS REQUIRED FOR FEDERAL EMERGENCY OR MAJOR DISASTER RELIEF. THIS SUBSECTION MAY APPLY RETROACTIVELY TO THE GREAT STORMS OR FLOODS OF 1976 OR 1977.

Section 2. This proposed amendment shall be submitted by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to the qualified electors of the State, at the primary election or election next held after the advertising requirements of Article XI, section 1(a) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been satisfied.