A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an emergency Constitutional amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granting the General Assembly the power to enact special laws to aid certain individuals, corporations, associations, institutions or nonpublic schools adversely affected by conditions caused by certain storms, floods, or tornados OR OTHER FUTURE MAJOR DISASTERS.

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

Section 1. Many Pennsylvanians have suffered greatly from the ravages of great storms or floods in the last few years. The great storms, floods or tornados of 1974, 1975 and 1976 are additional major disasters causing loss of life and great damage and destruction to property of individuals, industrial and commercial establishments and public facilities. AND NO DOUBT THERE WILL BE MANY MORE MAJOR DISASTERS OCCURRING IN FUTURE YEARS.

It is imperative that the victims of these PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE disasters immediately receive the fullest possible aid from both the public and private sectors in order to clean up
and rebuild the affected areas of the Commonwealth and that persons in the Commonwealth be eligible for the maximum available aid from the government of the United States. The General Assembly desires to alleviate such storm or economic deprivation caused by the floods and storms but is, STORMS OR OTHER FUTURE DISASTERS limited in its efforts by rigid restrictions in the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The safety and welfare of the Commonwealth requires prompt amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The following amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with the emergency provisions contained in subsections (a) and (b) of section 1 of Article XI thereof:

That section 17 of Article VIII of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be amended to read:

§ 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, Floods or Tornados of September 1971, of June, 1972, of 1974, of 1975, or of July 1976 OR AS A RESULT OF MAJOR DISASTERS OCCURRING ON OR AFTER THE DATE

THIS AMENDMENT IS APPROVED BY THE ELECTORATE.
(B) WHENEVER THE GOVERNOR OF THIS COMMONWEALTH FINDS AS A FACT AND SHALL OFFICIALLY HAVE PROCLAIMED THAT A MAJOR DISASTER HAS OCCURRED ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE THIS AMENDMENT IS APPROVED BY THE ELECTORATE, AND THAT AS A RESULT THEREOF CONDITIONS OF EXTREME EMERGENCY EXIST IN ALL OR ANY PART OF PENNSYLVANIA OF SUCH MAGNITUDE OR SEVERITY AS TO AFFECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE OF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH OR AFFECTS PUBLIC FACILITIES OR INSTITUTIONS OR THE ECONOMY OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH, THEN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ITS WISDOM AND DISCRETION, MAY EXERCISE THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A).

SCHEDULE

THE FOREGOING AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VIII SHALL TAKE EFFECT ON THE DATE OF APPROVAL THEREOF BY THE ELECTORATE, AND SHALL BE A PERMANENT PART OF THIS CONSTITUTION, EXCEPT THAT THE AMENDATORY PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (A) RELATING TO TORNADOS OF JULY 1976 SHALL BE RETROACTIVE TO JULY OF 1976, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUBSECTIONS (A) OR (B) RELATING TO FUTURE MAJOR DISASTERS, SHALL BE APPLICABLE ONLY DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME FOR WHICH THE GOVERNOR SHALL OFFICIALLY HAVE PROCLAIMED THAT A MAJOR DISASTER HAS OCCURRED AND THAT CONDITIONS OF EXTREME EMERGENCY STILL EXIST. SUCH CONDITIONS SHALL BE DEEMED TO EXIST ONLY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE GOVERNOR SHALL OFFICIALLY HAVE PROCLAIMED THAT THEY HAVE CEASED TO EXIST AT WHICH TIME ANY LAWS ENACTED PERTAINING TO SUCH FUTURE EMERGENCY CONDITIONS SHALL BE DEEMED SUSPENDED TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH ARE INCONSISTENT OR IN CONFLICT WITH ANY PROVISION OF THIS CONSTITUTION.

Section 2. This proposed amendment shall be submitted by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to the qualified electors of the Commonwealth on the date the amendment is approved by the electorate.
State at the municipal election to be held on November 2, 1977, after the advertising requirements of subsection (a) of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been satisfied.