|  | PRINTER'S NO. 818 |
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**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

SENATE BILL

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| No. | 7 | Session of  2024 |

INTRODUCED BY

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for election of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

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

Section 1. The following integrated amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with Article XI:

§ 13. Election of justices, judges and justices of the peace; vacancies.

1. Justices, judges and justices of the peace shall be elected at the municipal election next preceding the commencement of their respective terms of office by the electors of the Commonwealth or the respective districts in which they are to serve.

§ 15. Tenure of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

1. The regular term of office of justices shall be changed from ten years to four years, and judges shall remain at ten years. The regular term of office for judges of the municipal court in the City of Philadelphia and of justices of the peace shall remain at six years. The tenure of any justice or judge shall not be affected by changes in judicial districts or by reduction in the number of judges. At the expiration of each term, a justice or judge will no longer be eligible for retention, and must run for re-election to continue to serve.
2. A vacancy in the office of justice, judge or justice of the peace shall be filled by appointment by the Governor. The appointment shall be with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the members elected to the Senate, except in the case of justices of the peace which shall be by a majority. The appointment will hold the office until the term ends of the previous serving elected candidate.

Section 2. The following procedure applies to the proposed constitutional amendments in this joint resolution:

(1) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of the amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

(2) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of the amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall submit the amendments to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth as a single ballot question at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.