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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 488 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY VOGEL, SMITH, TEPLITZ, ARGALL, VULAKOVICH,  
BOSCOLA, BARTOLOTTA, COSTA, PILEGGI, BREWSTER, ALLOWAY,  
AUMENT, WOZNIAK, STEFANO, SCHWANK, WHITE, RAFFERTY, YUDICHAK,  
BAKER, WARD AND BROWNE, FEBRUARY 13, 2015

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 13, 2015

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, reducing the size of the General Assembly.

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 16 of Article II be amended to read:

8 § 16. Legislative districts.

9 The Commonwealth shall be divided into [50] 45 senatorial and  
10 [203] 153 representative districts, which shall be composed of  
11 compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population  
12 as practicable. Each senatorial district shall elect one  
13 Senator, and each representative district one Representative.  
14 Unless absolutely necessary no county, city, incorporated town,  
15 borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming either a  
16 senatorial or representative district.

1 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
2 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the  
3 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to  
4 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article  
5 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the  
6 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in  
7 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after  
8 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

9 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this  
10 proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the  
11 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the  
12 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the  
13 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required  
14 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such  
15 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of  
16 this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the  
17 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment  
18 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first  
19 primary, general or municipal election which meets the  
20 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article  
21 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least  
22 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is  
23 passed by the General Assembly.

24 Section 3. The amendment of section 16 of Article II of the  
25 Constitution of Pennsylvania shall become effective after the  
26 2010 Federal census reapportionment.