
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. **316** Session of
1961

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. PECHAN AND KROMER,
FEBRUARY 28, 1961.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES
AND FEDERAL RELATIONS, FEBRUARY 28, 1961.

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to article five section eleven of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania changing the justice of the peace and alderman system

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

- 1 Section 1 The following amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with the provisions
- 2

EXPLANATION—CAPITAL LETTERS indicate new matter added to bill. Matter stricken through is to be omitted from bill. Underlining indicates new matter added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

1 of the eighteenth article thereof

2 That article five section eleven of the Constitution of the Com-
3 monwealth of Pennsylvania be amended to read

4 Section 11 (a) Except in Philadelphia each county shall be divided
5 by the Court of Common Pleas into separate justice of the peace or
6 alderman districts for each seven thousand five hundred inhabitants ac-
7 cording to the last preceding United States census except that each area
8 of one hundred square miles shall have at least one justice of the peace
9 or alderman district After each census the Court may create new dis-
10 tricts based on the same unit of population or area and may change the
11 boundaries of districts In each district there shall be one justice of the
12 peace or alderman who shall be chosen by the electors of the district
13 at a municipal election and who shall have exclusive jurisdiction therein
14 He shall have been a resident of his district for at least one year next
15 preceding his election He shall hold office for six years from the first
16 Monday of January after his election A vacancy in the office of justice
17 of the peace or alderman shall be filled by the Governor

18 (b) For services rendered in judicial proceedings a justice of the
19 peace or alderman shall receive an annual salary of not less than \$1,000
20 nor more than \$3,500 paid by the county and no other compensation

1 Fees fines and penalties received by him in judicial proceedings shall be
2 paid into the county treasury for the use of the county unless otherwise
3 provided by law

4 (c) Until otherwise provided by law justices of the peace or alder-
5 men in any county shall have the jurisdiction and powers of the justices
6 of the peace or aldermen in civil and criminal cases existing when this
7 amendment becomes effective

8 (d) Rules of procedure for the conduct of their offices by justices
9 of the peace or aldermen not otherwise provided for by law shall be
10 prescribed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

11 Schedule

12 That no inconvenience may arise from the change in the Constitu-
13 tion of the Commonwealth and in order to carry it into complete opera-
14 tion it is declared that

15 Justice of the peace and alderman districts shall be created and
16 the salaries of justices of the peace and aldermen shall be fixed before
17 the first day fixed by law for the circulation of nomination petitions for
18 the municipal primary election next following the adoption of this
19 amendment

20 At the municipal election next following the adoption of this amend-

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- 1 ment a justice of the peace or alderman shall be elected in each district
- 2 The term of justices of the peace and aldermen in office at the
- 3 time of the adoption of this amendment shall continue in office until
- 4 the first election held hereunder

We certify that this bill has passed the Senate and the House of
Representatives.

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Chief Clerk, Senate

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President pro tempore, Senate

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Speaker, House of Representatives