

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to article four, section nine of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further regulating membership of, and appointment to, the Board of Pardons, and prescribing powers and duties regarding fines and forfeitures, reprieves, commutations of sentence and pardon.

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

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof:

That section nine, article four of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be amended to read:

Section 9. There is hereby created a Board of Pardons, to be composed of five members, which have been resident citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a period of not less than two years immediately preceding such appointment, each of whom shall hold office for the term of eight years, excepting the Lieutenant Governor: Provided, however, That the initial appointments shall be for the term hereinafter provided.

One member of the board shall be the Lieutenant Governor who shall be chairman of the board, and four members, one of whom shall be learned in the law, shall be appointed by the Governor. All appointments shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate.

All appointments shall be for full time duty and shall be made for a period of eight years, upon a staggered basis of two years. The first appointment by the Governor shall be for a two year period; the second appointment by the Governor, for a four year period; * the third appointment by the Governor shall be for a six year period; and the fourth appointment by the Governor shall be for an eight year period; and thereafter all appointments shall be for a period of eight years. No appointee shall hold any other public office.

Each vacancy shall be filled by the Governor and the Governor shall have authority to make recess appointments until the convening of the Senate. Excepting the initial appointments made for a period of less than eight years, no member shall be entitled to reappointment.

In all criminal cases except impeachment, the Governor shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures, to grant reprieves, commutations of sentence, and pardons; but no pardon shall be granted, nor sentence commuted, except upon the recommendation in writing of the Board of Pardons, or a majority of them, after full hearing upon due public notice, and in open session; and such recommendation with the reasons therefor at length shall be recorded and filed with the board in a docket kept for that purpose.

The General Assembly shall have power to regulate procedure before the Board of Pardons, and shall require it to keep records of its actions, and reasons therefor, which shall at all times be open for public inspection.

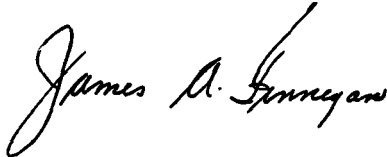
* "shall" in original.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Office of the Secretary

I certify that, in obedience to the directions of an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I have collated with, and corrected by, the original rolls, on file in this office, the proof sheets of the printed copies of this edition of the Laws and Resolutions of the General Assembly, passed during the session ending the twentieth day of June, Anno Domini one thousand nine hundred and fifty-seven.

Given under my hand and seal of the Department of State at Harrisburg in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania this first day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty-seven and in the year of the Commonwealth the one hundred and eighty-second.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James A. Finneyan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary.

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

