
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1

Special Session No. 1 of
2023-2024

INTRODUCED BY GREGORY AND ROZZI, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON THE COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE JUSTICE TO
OTHERWISE BARRED VICTIMS OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE,
FEBRUARY 21, 2023

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for courts to be open and
3 suits against the Commonwealth.

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

6 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
7 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

8 That Section 11 of Article I be amended to read:

9 § 11. Courts to be open; suits against the Commonwealth.

10 (a) All courts shall be open; and every man for an injury
11 done him in his lands, goods, person or reputation shall have
12 remedy by due course of law, and right and justice administered
13 without sale, denial or delay. Suits may be brought against the
14 Commonwealth in such manner, in such courts and in such cases as
15 the Legislature may by law direct.

16 (b) An individual for whom a statutory limitations period
17 has already expired, or whose claim would otherwise be barred or

1 limited by a statutory cap on damages, sovereign immunity or by
2 governmental or official immunity, shall have a period of two
3 years, without bar or limitation by such caps or immunities,
4 from the time that this subsection becomes effective to commence
5 an action arising from childhood sexual abuse, in such cases as
6 provided by law at the time that this subsection becomes
7 effective.

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

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