
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 212 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY GLEIM, GREINER, KAUFFMAN, STAMBAUGH, SMITH, HAMM,
ROWE, ZIMMERMAN, STAATS, MOUL, JOZWIAK AND LEADBETER,
MARCH 8, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MARCH 8, 2023

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, changing the Commonwealth's
3 fiscal period from one year to two years.

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

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

9 (1) That section 7(a)(2) and (4) of Article VIII be amended
10 to read:

11 § 7. Commonwealth indebtedness.

12 (a) No debt shall be incurred by or on behalf of the
13 Commonwealth except by law and in accordance with the provisions
14 of this section.

15 * * *

16 (2) The Governor, State Treasurer and Auditor General,
17 acting jointly, may (i) issue tax anticipation notes having a

1 maturity within the fiscal [year] period of issue and payable
2 exclusively from revenues received in the same fiscal [year]
3 period, and (ii) incur debt for the purpose of refunding other
4 debt, if such refunding debt matures within the term of the
5 original debt.

6 * * *

7 (4) Debt may be incurred without the approval of the
8 electors for capital projects specifically itemized in a capital
9 budget, if such debt will not cause the amount of all net debt
10 outstanding to exceed one and three-quarters times the average
11 of the annual tax revenues deposited in the previous five fiscal
12 [years] periods as certified by the Auditor General. For the
13 purposes of this subsection, debt outstanding shall not include
14 debt incurred under clauses (1) and (2) (i), or debt incurred
15 under clause (2) (ii) if the original debt would not be so
16 considered, or debt incurred under subsection (3) unless the
17 General Assembly shall so provide in the law authorizing such
18 debt.

19 * * *

20 (2) That section 11(a) of Article VIII be amended to read:
21 § 11. Gasoline taxes and motor license fees restricted.

22 (a) All proceeds from gasoline and other motor fuel excise
23 taxes, motor vehicle registration fees and license taxes,
24 operators' license fees and other excise taxes imposed on
25 products used in motor transportation after providing therefrom
26 for (a) cost of administration and collection, (b) payment of
27 obligations incurred in the construction and reconstruction of
28 public highways and bridges shall be appropriated by the General
29 Assembly to agencies of the State or political subdivisions
30 thereof; and used solely for construction, reconstruction,

1 maintenance and repair of and safety on public highways and
2 bridges and costs and expenses incident thereto, and for the
3 payment of obligations incurred for such purposes, and shall not
4 be diverted by transfer or otherwise to any other purpose,
5 except that loans may be made by the State from the proceeds of
6 such taxes and fees for a single period not exceeding eight
7 months, but no such loan shall be made within the period of one
8 year from any preceding loan, and every loan made [in any fiscal
9 year] before July 1 shall be repayable [within one month after
10 the beginning] by July 31 of the next fiscal year.

11 * * *

12 (3) That section 12 of Article VIII be amended to read:

13 § 12. Governor's budgets and financial plan.

14 [Annually, at] At the times set by law, the Governor shall
15 submit to the General Assembly:

16 (a) A balanced operating budget for the ensuing fiscal
17 [year] period, consisting of two years, setting forth in detail

18 (i) proposed expenditures classified by department or agency and
19 by program and (ii) estimated revenues from all sources. If
20 estimated revenues and available surplus are less than proposed
21 expenditures, the Governor shall recommend specific additional
22 sources of revenue sufficient to pay the deficiency and the
23 estimated revenue to be derived from each source;

24 (b) A capital budget for the ensuing fiscal [year] period,
25 consisting of two years, setting forth in detail proposed
26 expenditures to be financed from the proceeds of obligations of
27 the Commonwealth or of its agencies or authorities or from
28 operating funds; and

29 (c) A financial plan for not less than the next succeeding
30 five fiscal periods, each consisting of two years, which plan

1 shall include for each such fiscal year:

2 (i) Projected operating expenditures classified by
3 department or agency and by program, in reasonable detail, and
4 estimated revenues, by major categories, from existing and
5 additional sources, and

6 (ii) Projected expenditures for capital projects
7 specifically itemized by purpose, and the proposed sources of
8 financing each.

9 (4) That section 13 of Article VIII be amended to read:

10 § 13. Appropriations.

11 (a) Operating budget appropriations made by the General
12 Assembly shall not exceed the actual and estimated revenues and
13 surplus available in the same fiscal [year] period.

14 (b) The General Assembly shall adopt a capital budget for
15 the ensuing fiscal [year] period.

16 (5) That section 14 of Article VIII be amended to read:

17 § 14. Surplus.

18 All surplus of operating funds at the end of the fiscal
19 [year] period shall be appropriated during the ensuing fiscal
20 [year] period by the General Assembly.

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

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

28 (2) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of
29 the amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
30 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising

1 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
2 of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
3 submit the amendments to the qualified electors of this
4 Commonwealth as a single ballot question at the first
5 primary, general or municipal election which meets the
6 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
7 of Pennsylvania.