

# THE GOVERNOR PROCLAMATION

## Constitutional Amendment—Article IV

*Whereas*, Joint Resolution No. 2 of Special Session No. 1 of 1995 proposed to amend Article IV, Section 9 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, changing provisions relating to pardons, commutations and the Board of Pardons to read as follows:

“§ 9. Pardoning power; Board of Pardons.

(a) In all criminal cases except impeachment the Governor shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures, to grant reprieves, commutation of sentences and pardons; but no pardon shall be granted, nor sentence commuted, except on the recommendation in writing of a majority of the Board of Pardons, and in the case of a sentence of death or life imprisonment, on the unanimous recommendation in writing of the Board of Pardons, after full hearing in open session, upon due public notice. The recommendation, with the reasons therefor at length, shall be delivered to the Governor and a copy thereof shall be kept on file in the office of the Lieutenant Governor in a docket kept for that purpose.

(b) The Board of Pardons shall consist of the Lieutenant Governor who shall be chairman, the Attorney General and three members appointed by the Governor with the consent of a majority of the members elected to the Senate for terms of six years. The three members appointed by the Governor shall be residents of Pennsylvania. One shall be a crime victim; one a corrections expert; and the third a doctor of medicine, psychiatrist or psychologist. The board shall keep records of its actions, which shall at all times be open for public inspection;” and

*Whereas*, Joint Resolution No. 2 of Special Session No. 1 of 1995 was agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each House of the General Assembly and published pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania; and

*Whereas*, in the General Assembly next afterwards chosen, the aforesaid amendment to Article IV, Section 9 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania was proposed in Joint Resolution No. 2 of 1997, which was agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each House of the General Assembly and published pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania; and

*Whereas*, the aforesaid proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 9 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania was submitted for approval to the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania at an election held on November 4, 1997; and

*Whereas*, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, pursuant to law, has certified to me that the aforesaid proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 9 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania was approved by a majority of those voting thereon on the aforesaid day; and

*Whereas*, Section 903 of Title 1 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes requires the Governor, upon receiving the aforesaid certification of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to issue his proclamation indicating whether or not the proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 9 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania has been adopted by a majority of the electors voting thereon.

*Now Therefore*, I, Thomas J. Ridge, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim that the aforesaid amendment to Article IV, Section 9 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania was adopted by a majority of the electors voting thereon on November 4, 1997.

*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, at the City of Harrisburg, this second day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and twenty-second.*

*Governor*

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 98-242. Filed for public inspection February 13, 1998, 9:00 a.m.]

## PROCLAMATION

### Constitutional Amendment—Article VII

*Whereas*, Joint Resolution No. 2 of 1996 proposed to amend Article VII, Section 14 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, relating to absentee voting, by changing provisions and adding a clause to read as follows:

“§ 14. Absentee voting.

(a) The Legislature shall, by general law, provide a manner in which, and the time and place at which, qualified electors who may, on the occurrence of any election, be absent from the municipality of their residence, because their duties, occupation or business require them to be elsewhere or who, on the occurrence of any election, are unable to attend at their proper polling places because of illness or physical disability or who will not attend a polling place because of the observance of a religious holiday or who cannot vote because of election day duties, in the case of a county employee, may vote, and for the return and canvass of their votes in the election district in which they respectively reside.

(b) For purposes of this section, “municipality” means a city, borough, incorporated town, township or any similar general purpose unit of government which may be created by the General Assembly;” and

*Whereas*, Joint Resolution No. 2 of 1996 was agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each House of the General Assembly and published pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania; and

*Whereas*, in the General Assembly next afterwards chosen, the aforesaid amendment to Article VII, Section 14 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania was proposed in Joint Resolution No. 3 of 1997, which was agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each House of the General Assembly and published pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania; and

*Whereas*, the aforesaid proposed amendment to Article VII, Section 14 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania was submitted for approval to the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania at an election held on November 4, 1997; and

*Whereas*, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, pursuant to law, has certified to me that the aforesaid proposed amendment to Article VII, Section 14 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania was approved by a majority of those voting thereon on the aforesaid day; and

*Whereas*, Section 903 of Title 1 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes requires the Governor, upon receiving the aforesaid certification of the

Secretary of the Commonwealth, to issue his proclamation indicating whether or not the proposed amendment to Article VII, Section 14 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania has been adopted by a majority of the electors voting thereon.

*Now Therefore*, I, Thomas J. Ridge, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim that the aforesaid amendment to Article VII, Section 14 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania was adopted by a majority of the electors voting thereon on November 4, 1997.

*Given* under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, at the City of Harrisburg, this second day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and twenty-second.

*Governor*

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 98-243. Filed for public inspection February 13, 1998, 9:00 a.m.]

**PROCLAMATION**  
**Constitutional Amendment—Article VIII**

*Whereas*, Joint Resolution No. 3 of 1996 proposed to amend Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, relating to taxation, by adding a clause that reads as follows:

“§ 2. Exemptions and special provisions.

\* \* \*

(b) The General Assembly may, by law:

\* \* \*

(vi) Authorize local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation an amount based on the assessed value of homestead property. The exclusions authorized by this clause shall not exceed one-half of the median assessed value of all homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction. A local taxing authority may not increase the millage rate of its tax on real property to pay for these exclusions;” and

*Whereas*, Joint Resolution No. 3 of 1996 was agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each House of the General Assembly and published pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania; and

*Whereas*, in the General Assembly next afterwards chosen, the aforesaid amendment to Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania was proposed in Joint Resolution No. 1 of 1997, which was agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each House of the General Assembly and published pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania; and

*Whereas*, the aforesaid proposed amendment to Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania was submitted for approval to the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania at an election held on November 4, 1997; and

## THE GOVERNOR

*Whereas*, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, pursuant to law, has certified to me that the aforesaid proposed amendment to Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania was approved by a majority of those voting thereon on the aforesaid day; and

*Whereas*, Section 903 of Title 1 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes requires the Governor, upon receiving the aforesaid certification of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to issue his proclamation indicating whether or not the proposed amendment to Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania has been adopted by a majority of the electors voting thereon.

*Now Therefore*, I, Thomas J. Ridge, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim that the aforesaid amendment to Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania was adopted by a majority of the electors voting thereon on November 4, 1997.

*Given* under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, at the City of Harrisburg, this second day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and twenty-second.

*Governor*

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 98-244. Filed for public inspection February 13, 1998, 9:00 a.m.]