

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 2048 Session of
1975

INTRODUCED BY WILSON, O'CONNELL, HASKELL AND BURNS,
DECEMBER 10, 1975

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, DECEMBER 16, 1975

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 29, 1937 (P.L.487, No.115), entitled,
2 as amended, "An act to provide for the permanent personal
3 registration of electors in cities of the second class,
4 cities of the second class A, cities of the third class,
5 boroughs, towns, and townships as a condition of their right
6 to vote at elections and primaries, and their enrollment as
7 members of political parties as a further condition of their
8 right to vote at primaries; prescribing certain procedure for
9 the conduct of elections and primaries and the challenge and
10 proof of qualifications of electors; requiring the county
11 commissioners of the various counties to act as a
12 registration commission therefor; and prescribing the powers
13 and duties of citizens, parties, political bodies,
14 registration commissions, commissioners, registrars,
15 inspectors of registration and other appointees of
16 registration commissions, county election boards, election
17 officers, municipal officers, departments and bureaus, police
18 officers, courts, judges, prothonotaries, sheriffs, county
19 commissioners, peace officers, county treasurers, county
20 controllers, registrars of vital statistics, certain public
21 utility corporations, real estate brokers, rental agents, and
22 boards of school directors; and imposing penalties,"
23 providing for registration by mail.

24 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
25 hereby enacts as follows:

26 Section 1. The act of April 29, 1937 (P.L.487, No.115),
27 known as "The Permanent Registration Act for Cities of the
28 Second Class, Cities of the Second Class A, Cities of the Third

1 Class, Boroughs, Towns, and Townships," reenacted and amended
2 May 31, 1955 (P.L.62, No.32), is amended by adding a section to
3 read:

4 Section 19.1. Registration by Mail.--(a) Every person
5 entitled to register under this act may be registered in
6 accordance with the procedures of this section as an alternative
7 to the procedures established elsewhere in this act.

8 (b) The Secretary of State shall cause to be prepared and
9 shall provide to each county commission registration forms in
10 quadruplicate, of a size and weight suitable for mailing. Such
11 forms shall contain spaces for entering the following:

12 (c) (1) The surname of the applicant; (2) his Christian name
13 or names; (3) his occupation; (4) the street or road and number,
14 if any, of his residence; (5) if his residence is a portion only
15 of the house, the location or number of the room or rooms,
16 apartment, flat or floor which he occupies; (6) the date his
17 residence in the district began; (7) his residence address when
18 he last registered; and the year of such registration; (8) the
19 sex of the applicant; (9) the color of the applicant; (10) the
20 state or territory of the United States, or foreign country,
21 where he was born; (11) the date when, place where, and the
22 court by which naturalized, and number of the naturalization
23 certificate; (12) if not naturalized personally, the name of
24 father, mother or husband through whom naturalized; (13) whether
25 he is unable, by reason of illiteracy, to read the names on the
26 ballot or on the voting machine labels; (14) whether he has a
27 physical disability which will render him unable to see or mark
28 the ballot or operate the voting machine, or to enter the voting
29 compartment or voting machine booth, without assistance, and, if
30 so, his declaration of the fact and his statement of the exact

1 nature of such disability; (15) the designation of the political
2 party of the elector, for the purpose of voting at primaries;
3 (16) the affidavit of registration, which shall be signed by the
4 elector, attested by the signature and address of any other
5 elector registered to vote in the same county and dated by him;
6 (17) his height, in feet and inches; (18) the color of his hair;
7 (19) the color of his eyes; (20) the date of his birth.

8 (d) Such forms shall also contain the following affidavit
9 form:

10 REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT

11 State of Pennsylvania

12 ss:

13 County of

14 I hereby swear, or affirm, that I am a citizen of the United
15 States, that on the day of the next election I shall be at least
16 eighteen years of age, and shall have resided in the State of
17 Pennsylvania for one year (or, having previously been a
18 qualified elector or a native born citizen of the State, and
19 having removed and returned, then six months) next preceding
20 said election, and in the election district two months, that I
21 am legally qualified to vote, that I have read (or have had read
22 to me) the foregoing statements made in connection with my
23 registration and that they are true and correct.

24

25 Signature of Voter

26 Subscribed and sworn to before me this.....day of.....
27 19....

28

29 Signature and Address of Registered
30 Voter in the same County.

1 (e) Any qualified person desiring to be registered may
2 complete such an official registration form in quadruplicate and
3 subscribe to the registration affidavit by oath or affirmation.
4 The affidavit shall be attested by any other elector registered
5 to vote in the same county.

6 (f) A completed registration form shall be mailed or
7 delivered to the county commission to which it is addressed. The
8 commission shall stamp the time and date of receipt on the first
9 copy which shall then be posted for inspection in the commission
10 office for thirty days.

11 (g) The second and third copies of the completed form shall
12 be mailed to the county chairmen of the principal political
13 parties having nominated candidates at the preceding general
14 election.

15 (h) Thirty days after the completed form shall have been
16 received by the commission and posted for inspection, the
17 registrant shall be enrolled unless challenged in accordance
18 with the provisions of this act. Thereupon the fourth copy of
19 the registration form shall be validated and mailed by first
20 class mail to the registrant at the address given on the form.
21 The envelope in which the validated registration is mailed shall
22 conspicuously carry the following instructions on its face:

23 "Do not forward. Return postage guaranteed. If not delivered
24 in two days, return to County Registration Commission."

25 (i) Such validated copy of a registration form shall be
26 evidence of an elector's registration in like manner as
27 registration cards issued under other sections of this act.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.