

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 180

Session of  
1983

INTRODUCED BY SAURMAN, J. L. WRIGHT, STEVENS, KUKOVICH,  
GREENWOOD, D. W. SNYDER, FISCHER, WESTON, ALDERETTE, WILSON,  
GEIST, BOWSER, TELEK, WOZNIAK, PERZEL, LASHINGER, RUDY, REBER  
AND BUNT, FEBRUARY 8, 1983

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 8, 1983

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 29, 1937 (P.L.487, No.115), entitled,  
2 as reenacted and amended, "An act to provide for the  
3 permanent personal registration of electors in cities of the  
4 second class, cities of the second class A, cities of the  
5 third class, boroughs, towns, and townships as a condition of  
6 their right to vote at elections and primaries, and their  
7 enrollment as members of political parties as a further  
8 condition of their right to vote at primaries; prescribing  
9 certain procedure for the conduct of elections and primaries  
10 and the challenge and proof of qualifications of electors;  
11 requiring the county commissioners of the various counties to  
12 act as a registration commission therefor; and prescribing  
13 the powers 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," further  
23 providing for the manner of registration.

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

26 Section 1. Sections 18(c) and 18.1(b) of the act of April  
27 29, 1937 (P.L.487, No.115), known as The Permanent Registration

1 Act for Cities of the Second Class, Cities of the Second Class  
2 A, Cities of the Third Class, Boroughs, Towns, and Townships,  
3 reenacted and amended May 31, 1955 (P.L.62, No.32), and amended  
4 July 1, 1976 (P.L.504, No.123), are amended to read:

5 Section 18. Manner of Registration.--

6 \* \* \*

7 (c) (1) The surname of the applicant; (2) his Christian  
8 name or names; (4) the street or road and number, if any, of his  
9 residence; (5) if his residence is a portion only of the house,  
10 the location or number of the room or rooms, apartment, flat or  
11 floor which he occupies; (6) the date his residence in the  
12 district began; (7) his residence address when he last  
13 registered, and the year of such registration; (8) the sex of  
14 the applicant; [(9) the color of the applicant;] (10) the state  
15 or territory of the United States, or foreign country, where he  
16 was born; (13) whether he is unable, by reason of illiteracy, to  
17 read the names on the ballot or on the voting machine labels;  
18 (14) whether he has a physical disability which will render him  
19 unable to see or mark the ballot or operate the voting machine,  
20 or to enter the voting compartment or voting machine booth,  
21 without assistance, and, if so, his declaration of the fact and  
22 his statement of the exact nature of such disability; (15) the  
23 designation of the political party of the elector, for the  
24 purpose of voting at primaries; (16) the affidavit of  
25 registration, which shall be signed by the elector, attested by  
26 the signature of the registrar or clerk and dated by him; (17)  
27 his height, in feet and inches; (18) the color of his hair; (19)  
28 the color of his eyes; and (20) the date of his birth. Each  
29 registration card shall also have a sufficient number of spaces  
30 thereon for the insertion of--(21) the city of the second class,

1 the city of the second class A, the city of the third class, the  
2 borough, town, township, ward and election district, if any, in  
3 which the elector resides and to which he may from time to time  
4 remove, together with his street address in each city of the  
5 second class, city of the second class A, city of the third  
6 class, borough, town or township, and the other data required to  
7 be given upon such removal; (22) the date of each election and  
8 primary at which the elector votes, the number and letter, if  
9 any, of the stub of the ballot issued to him or his number in  
10 the order of admission to the voting machines; and (23) the  
11 signature or initials of the election officer who enters the  
12 record of voting on the card.

13 \* \* \*

14 Section 18.1. Manner of Mail Registration by Persons in  
15 Military Service, Persons in the Merchant Marine, Persons in  
16 Religious and Welfare Groups Officially Attached To and Serving  
17 with the Armed Forces and Civilian Federal Personnel Overseas  
18 and Their Spouses and Dependents.--In addition to any other  
19 method herein provided, the following persons may also be  
20 registered by mail in the manner hereinafter set forth under  
21 this section: (1) any person in military service, his spouse and  
22 dependents; or (2) any person in the Merchant Marine, his spouse  
23 and dependents; or (3) any person in religious and welfare  
24 groups officially attached to and serving with the armed forces,  
25 his spouse and dependents; or (4) any person who is a civilian  
26 employee of the United States outside the territorial limits of  
27 the several States of the United States and the District of  
28 Columbia, whether or not such person is subject to the civil-  
29 service laws and the Classification Act of 1949 and whether or  
30 not paid from funds appropriated by the Congress, his spouse and

1 dependents.

2 \* \* \*

3 (b) The official registration application card shall require  
4 the statement of the applicant, the signature of the applicant,  
5 and shall provide sufficient space for the following  
6 information: (1) The surname of the applicant, (2) his Christian  
7 name or names, (4) the street or road and number, if any, of his  
8 home residence and the date of leaving same, providing that, in  
9 the event there is no street address, the registrant must list  
10 the nearest cross street or road, (5) if his residence was a  
11 portion only of a house, the location or number of the room or  
12 rooms, apartment, flat or floor which he occupied, (6) the date  
13 his residence began at the place which is his home residence,  
14 (7) his home residence address when he last registered and the  
15 year of such registration, including any former registration  
16 under any other surname, (8) the sex of the applicant, [(9) the  
17 color of the applicant,] (10) the state or territory of the  
18 United States or the foreign country where he was born, (13)  
19 whether he is unable by reason of illiteracy to read the names  
20 on the ballot or voting machine labels, (14) whether he has a  
21 physical disability which will render him unable to see or mark  
22 the ballot or operate the voting machine or to enter the voting  
23 compartment or voting machine booth without assistance, and, if  
24 so, his declaration of that fact and his statement of the exact  
25 nature of such disability, (15) the designation of the political  
26 party of the elector for the purpose of voting at primaries,  
27 (16) the declaration of registration, as hereinafter prescribed,  
28 which shall be signed by the elector, (17) the height of the  
29 applicant in feet and inches, (18) the color of his hair, (19)  
30 the color of his eyes, (20) the date of his birth, (21) the

1 designation by the elector that the official registration  
2 application card is intended by such elector for use as (check  
3 one):

4                               /       /   New Registration

5                               /       /   Change of Address

6                               /       /   Change of Name

7 Each official registration application card for registration by  
8 persons registering under this section shall also have (22) a  
9 sufficient number of spaces thereon for the insertion by the  
10 commission, but not by the applicant, of the city of the second  
11 class, city of the second class A, city of the third class,  
12 borough, town, township, ward and election district, if any, in  
13 which the applicant resided on the date of leaving home  
14 residence and to which he may from time to time remove after  
15 returning to his home residence, together with his street  
16 address in each city of the second class, city of the second  
17 class A, city of the third class, borough, town or township and  
18 the other data required to be given upon such removal, (23) the  
19 date of each election and primary at which the applicant votes  
20 after registration, the number and letter, if any, of the stub  
21 of the ballot issued to him, or his number in the order of  
22 admission to the voting machines, and (24) the signature or  
23 initials of the election officer, commissioner, register or  
24 clerk, who enters the record of voting on the card. Immediately  
25 following the spaces for inserting the information as provided  
26 in this subsection, the applicant shall affix his signature  
27 exactly as it appears in (1) and (2) of this subsection.

28       \* \* \*

29       Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.