

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE BILL

## No. 1559

Session of  
1987

INTRODUCED BY CALTAGIRONE, KUKOVICH, RITTER, McHALE, FOX,  
JOSEPHS, BATTISTO, TRUMAN, E. Z. TAYLOR AND LANGTRY, JUNE 16,  
1987

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS, JUNE 16, 1987

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,"  
23 eliminating certain items relating to sex, race and physical  
24 description from certain registration forms.

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

27 Section 1. Sections 18(c), 18.1(b) and 18.2(b) of the act of  
28 April 29, 1937 (P.L.487, No.115), known as The Permanent

1 Registration Act for Cities of the Second Class, Cities of the  
2 Second Class A, Cities of the Third Class, Boroughs, Towns, and  
3 Townships, reenacted and amended May 31, 1955 (P.L.62, No.32)  
4 and amended May 31, 1984 (P.L.355, No.70), 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: Provided,  
15 however, That an application shall not be rejected because the  
16 color of the applicant is not indicated thereon; (10)] the state  
17 or territory of the United States, or foreign country, where he  
18 was born; [(13)] (9) whether he is unable, by reason of  
19 illiteracy, to read the names on the ballot or on the voting  
20 machine labels; [(14)] (10) whether he has a physical disability  
21 which will render him unable to see or mark the ballot or  
22 operate the voting machine, or to enter the voting compartment  
23 or voting machine booth, without assistance, and, if so, his  
24 declaration of the fact and his statement of the exact nature of  
25 such disability; [(15)] (11) the designation of the political  
26 party of the elector, for the purpose of voting at primaries;  
27 [(16)] (12) the affidavit of registration, which shall be signed  
28 by the elector, attested by the signature of the registrar or  
29 clerk and dated by him; [(17) his height, in feet and inches;  
30 (18) the color of his hair; (19) the color of his eyes; and

1 (20)] and (13) the date of his birth. Each registration card  
2 shall also have a sufficient number of spaces thereon for the  
3 insertion of--[(21)] (14) the city of the second class, the city  
4 of the second class A, the city of the third class, the borough,  
5 town, township, ward and election district, if any, in which the  
6 elector resides and to which he may from time to time remove,  
7 together with his street address in each city of the second  
8 class, city of the second class A, city of the third class,  
9 borough, town or township, and the other data required to be  
10 given upon such removal; [(22)] (15) the date of each election  
11 and primary at which the elector votes, the number and letter,  
12 if any, of the stub of the ballot issued to him or his number in  
13 the order of admission to the voting machines; and [(23)] (16)  
14 the signature or initials of the election officer who enters the  
15 record of voting on the card.

16 \* \* \*

17 Section 18.1. Manner of Mail Registration by Persons in  
18 Military Service, Persons in the Merchant Marine, Persons in  
19 Religious and Welfare Groups Officially Attached To and Serving  
20 with the Armed Forces and Civilian Federal Personnel Overseas  
21 and Their Spouses and Dependents.--In addition to any other  
22 method herein provided, the following persons may also be  
23 registered by mail in the manner hereinafter set forth under  
24 this section: (1) any person in military service, his spouse and  
25 dependents; or (2) any person in the Merchant Marine, his spouse  
26 and dependents; or (3) any person in religious and welfare  
27 groups officially attached to and serving with the armed forces,  
28 his spouse and dependents; or (4) any person who is a civilian  
29 employee of the United States outside the territorial limits of  
30 the several States of the United States and the District of

1 Columbia, whether or not such person is subject to the civil-  
2 service laws and the Classification Act of 1949 and whether or  
3 not paid from funds appropriated by the Congress, his spouse and  
4 dependents.

5 \* \* \*

6 (b) The official registration application card shall require  
7 the statement of the applicant, the signature of the applicant,  
8 and shall provide sufficient space for the following  
9 information: (1) The surname of the applicant, (2) his Christian  
10 name or names, (4) the street or road and number, if any, of his  
11 home residence and the date of leaving same, providing that, in  
12 the event there is no street address, the registrant must list  
13 the nearest cross street or road, (5) if his residence was a  
14 portion only of a house, the location or number of the room or  
15 rooms, apartment, flat or floor which he occupied, (6) the date  
16 his residence began at the place which is his home residence,  
17 (7) his home residence address when he last registered and the  
18 year of such registration, including any former registration  
19 under any other surname, (8) [the sex of the applicant, (9) the  
20 color of the applicant: Provided, however, That an application  
21 shall not be rejected because the color of the applicant is not  
22 indicated thereon, (10)] the state or territory of the United  
23 States or the foreign country where he was born, [(13)] (9)  
24 whether he is unable by reason of illiteracy to read the names  
25 on the ballot or voting machine labels, [(14)] (10) whether he  
26 has a physical disability which will render him unable to see or  
27 mark the ballot or operate the voting machine or to enter the  
28 voting compartment or voting machine booth without assistance,  
29 and, if so, his declaration of that fact and his statement of  
30 the exact nature of such disability, [(15)] (11) the designation

1 of the political party of the elector for the purpose of voting  
2 at primaries, [(16)] (12) the declaration of registration, as  
3 hereinafter prescribed, which shall be signed by the elector,  
4 [(17) the height of the applicant in feet and inches, (18) the  
5 color of his hair, (19) the color of his eyes, (20)] (13) the  
6 date of his birth, [(21)] (14) the designation by the elector  
7 that the official registration application card is intended by  
8 such elector for use as (check one):

9                               /       / New Registration  
10                              /       / Change of Address  
11                              /       / Change of Name

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

1 as provided in this subsection, the applicant shall affix his  
2 signature exactly as it appears in (1) and (2) of this  
3 subsection.

4 \* \* \*

5 Section 18.2. Manner of Mail Registration by Electors Other  
6 Than Those Enumerated in Section 18.1 of This Act.--Any elector  
7 may, in addition to any other method herein provided, also be  
8 registered by mail in the manner set forth in this section:

9 \* \* \*

10 (b) The official registration application card shall require  
11 the statement of, and shall provide sufficient space for the  
12 following information: (1) The surname of the applicant, (2) his  
13 Christian name or names, (4) the street or road and number of  
14 his residence and the date of leaving same, providing that, in  
15 the event there is no street address, the registrant must list  
16 the nearest cross street or road, (5) if his residence is a  
17 portion only of a house, the location or number of the room or  
18 rooms, apartment, flat or floor which he occupies, (6) the date  
19 his residence began at the place at which he resides, (7) his  
20 residence address when he last registered and the year of such  
21 registration, including any former registration under any other  
22 surname, (8) [the sex of the applicant, (9) the color of the  
23 applicant: Provided, however, That an application shall not be  
24 rejected because the color of the applicant is not indicated  
25 thereon, (10)] the state or territory of the United States or  
26 the foreign country where he was born, [(13)] (9) whether he is  
27 unable by reason of illiteracy to read the names on the ballot  
28 or on voting machines labels, [(14)] (10) whether he has a  
29 physical disability which will render him unable to see or mark  
30 the ballot or operate the voting machine or to enter the voting

1 compartment or voting machine booth without assistance and, if  
2 so, his declaration of that fact and his statement of the exact  
3 nature of such disability, [(15)] (11) the designation of the  
4 political party of the elector for the purpose of voting at  
5 primaries, [(16)] (12) the declaration of registration as  
6 hereinafter prescribed which shall be signed by the elector,  
7 [(17) the height of the applicant in feet and inches, (18) the  
8 color of his hair, (19) the color of his eyes, (20)] (13) the  
9 date of his birth, [(21)] (14) the designation by the elector  
10 that the official registration application card is intended by  
11 such elector for use as (check one):

12                               /       /   New Registration  
13                               /       /   Change of Address  
14                               /       /   Change of Name

15 Each official registration application card for electors  
16 registering in the manner prescribed by this section shall also  
17 have a sufficient number of spaces thereon for the insertion of  
18 [(22)] (15) the city of the second class, city of the second  
19 class A, city of the third class, borough, town, township, ward  
20 and election district, if any, in which the applicant resides  
21 and to which he may, from time to time, remove together with his  
22 street address in each city of the second class, city of the  
23 second class A, city of the third class, borough, town or  
24 township, and the other data required to be given upon such  
25 removal, [(23)] (16) the date of each election and primary at  
26 which the applicant votes after registration, the number and  
27 letter, if any, of the stub of the ballot issued to him or his  
28 number in the order of admission to the voting machines, and  
29 [(24)] (17) the signature or initials of the election officer,  
30 commissioner, registrar or clerk, who enters the record of

1 voting on the card. Immediately following the spaces for  
2 inserting the information as provided in this subsection, the  
3 applicant shall affix his signature exactly as it appears in (1)  
4 and (2) of this subsection.

5 \* \* \*

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