

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1210

Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY JAMES, WASHINGTON, GRUCELA, YOUNGBLOOD, FREEMAN,
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KIRKLAND, MYERS, FRANKEL, BELFANTI AND JOSEPHS,
APRIL 21, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 21, 2003

AN ACT

1 Providing for election day registration; and imposing penalties.

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5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 CHAPTER 1

8 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

9 Section 101. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Election Day
11 Registration Act.

12 Section 102. Definitions.

13 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
14 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
15 context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "County board." The county board of elections.

17 "Department." The Department of State of the Commonwealth.

18 CHAPTER 3

19 ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

20 Section 301. Election day registration.

21 (a) General rule.--An individual otherwise eligible to vote
22 may register to vote on the day of any primary, municipal or
23 general election by appearing in person at the polling place for
24 the election district in which the individual maintains
25 residence, completing a registration card, making an oath in the
26 form prescribed by the department and providing proof of
27 residence.

28 (b) Proof of residence.--An individual may prove residence
29 by any of the following methods:

30 (1) By displaying a valid driver's license.

1 (2) By showing any document approved by the department.

2 (3) By the written statement of an elector registered to
3 vote in that election district, sworn to in the presence of a
4 judge of elections, stating to the effect that the elector
5 personally knows that the individual is a resident of the
6 election district. An individual who proves residence under
7 this paragraph on election day may not sign a proof of
8 residence oath vouching for any other individual on that
9 election day.

10 Section 302. Procedure.

11 (a) Judges of elections.--Voter registration under this act
12 shall be conducted by judges of elections. A judge who registers
13 an individual voter may not process that voter's ballot at any
14 time prior to opening of the ballot box after the voting ends.

15 (b) Registration cards.--Registration cards and forms for
16 oaths shall be available at each polling place. If an individual
17 who registers on election day proves residence under section
18 301(b)(3), the form containing that statement shall be attached
19 to the individual's registration card. Registration cards
20 completed on election day shall be forwarded to the appropriate
21 county board, which shall add the name of each voter to the
22 registration rolls unless the information forwarded is
23 substantially deficient. Each judge of elections registering a
24 person on election day shall initial the voter registration card
25 of that individual.

26 (c) Deficient registration.--A county board which finds an
27 election day registration substantially deficient shall mail
28 written notice of same to the individual. An election day
29 registration shall not be found deficient solely because the
30 individual who provided proof of residence was ineligible to do

1 so.

2 Section 303. Maps.

3 The county board shall provide each polling place with a
4 detailed map showing election districts in order to assist
5 judges of elections in determining whether an address is located
6 in that district.

7 Section 304. Record of attempted registrations.

8 The judge of elections responsible for election day
9 registration at each polling place shall keep a record of the
10 number of individuals who attempt to register on election day
11 but who cannot provide proof of residence as required by this
12 act. This record shall be forwarded to the county board with the
13 election returns for that election district.

14 Section 305. Verification by mail.

15 Within ten days of an election, each county board shall send
16 a notice to a random sampling of no less than 25% of individuals
17 registered on election day. The random sampling shall be
18 determined in accordance with the rules of the department. As
19 soon as practicable after the election, the county board shall
20 mail registration verification notices to all individuals
21 registered on election day. If a notice is returned as not
22 deliverable, the county board shall attempt to determine the
23 reason for the return. A county board which does not receive or
24 obtain satisfactory proof of an individual's eligibility to vote
25 shall immediately notify the district attorney and the
26 department.

27 CHAPTER 5

28 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

29 Section 501. Prohibited acts.

30 (a) General.--A person may not do any of the following:

1 Section 1104. Applicability.

2 This act shall apply to the municipal or general election
3 occurring in the year next following the year of final enactment
4 of this act, and to each primary, municipal and general election
5 thereafter.

6 Section 1105. Effective date.

7 This act shall take effect immediately.