

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 238 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY DePASQUALE, McGEEHAN, BELFANTI, BEYER, BRIGGS, CONKLIN, CURRY, DONATUCCI, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GIBBONS, GOODMAN, HALUSKA, HORNAMAN, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, MANN, McILVAINE SMITH, MELIO, MUNDY, MURT, M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, PASHINSKI, QUINN, SANTONI, SIPTROTH, THOMAS, WALKO, WANSACZ, WHEATLEY AND WHITE, FEBRUARY 4, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 4, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), entitled
2 "An act concerning elections, including general, municipal,
3 special and primary elections, the nomination of candidates,
4 primary and election expenses and election contests; creating
5 and defining membership of county boards of elections;
6 imposing duties upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth,
7 courts, county boards of elections, county commissioners;
8 imposing penalties for violation of the act, and codifying,
9 revising and consolidating the laws relating thereto; and
10 repealing certain acts and parts of acts relating to
11 elections," providing for early voting in primaries and
12 elections.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. The act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known
16 as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is amended by adding an
17 article to read:

18 ARTICLE XII-A

19 CONDUCT OF EARLY VOTING

20 IN PRIMARIES AND ELECTIONS

21 Section 1201-A. Early voting period.

1 The county board of each county shall provide for early
2 voting to begin 15 days prior to the dates of elections and
3 primaries established in accordance with Article VI and to end
4 14 days after the starting date.

5 Section 1202-A. Early voting sites.

6 The county board of each county shall designate early voting
7 sites where electors may cast their ballots during the early
8 voting period established in accordance with section 1201-A.
9 These sites shall include the main office of the county board
10 and any other sites designated by the county board. The county
11 board shall make available at these sites the same equipment
12 used on election day as provided for in Article XI.

13 Section 1203-A. Days and times for opening and closing polls at
14 early voting sites.

15 The county board of each county shall designate the days and
16 hours that early voting sites will be open, provided that all
17 sites throughout the county shall have uniform days and hours,
18 shall be open eight hours each weekday, shall be open a minimum
19 of an aggregate eight hours each weekend, and shall not open
20 prior to 7 a.m. Eastern Standard Time or close before 7 p.m.
21 Eastern Standard Time.

22 Section 1204-A. Voter's certificates; elector identification.

23 At each early voting site, the county board shall prepare a
24 suitable number of voter's certificates as provided by section
25 1203. Each elector who appears to vote at an early voting site
26 shall complete a voter certificate and shall present to an
27 election officer one of the forms of photo identification as
28 established in section 1210.

29 Section 1205-A. Voting check list.

30 The county board shall maintain a voting check list as

1 provided for in section 1212 in such a way to ensure that
2 electors are prohibited from casting additional ballots at
3 either an early voting site or on election day in their
4 precinct.

5 Section 1206-A. Disposition of returns.

6 The county board shall track votes by precinct but shall not
7 tabulate votes prior to the close of the polls on election day.

8 Section 1207-A. Applicability of Article XII.

9 Except as provided in this article, the provisions of Article
10 XII shall apply to early voting in primaries and elections.

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