
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1454 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY RABB, DIAMOND, THOMAS, V. BROWN, VAZQUEZ, BARRAR
AND ROZZI, MAY 25, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 25, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in registration system, providing for pilot program
3 for electronic collection of signatures.

4 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

5 (1) The Department of Transportation has continually
6 focused on providing Pennsylvanians with secure driver's
7 licenses and identification cards as well as continued
8 improvements to both processes.

9 (2) If the act of May 8, 2012 (P.L.254, No.38), known as
10 the REAL ID Nonparticipation Act, is repealed, the Department
11 of Transportation may soon comply with the provisions of
12 Division B of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act
13 for Defense, the Global War on Terror and Tsunami Relief,
14 2005 (Public Law 109-13, 119 Stat. 231), commonly known as
15 the REAL ID Act of 2005, which may further secure driver's
16 licenses and identification cards issued by the Department of
17 Transportation.

18 (3) Pennsylvania driver's licenses and identification

1 cards may represent a secure and effective tool in the
2 collection of signatures for candidates' nomination petitions
3 as well as the examination of nomination petitions under the
4 act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the
5 Pennsylvania Election Code.

6 (4) Allowing electors to simply swipe a secure driver's
7 license or identification card as opposed to requiring
8 handwritten information may result in a more efficient and
9 secure nomination petition process for electors, candidates
10 and the Department of State.

11 (5) As a public policy matter, the Commonwealth should
12 utilize the latest technological resources to modernize the
13 election systems and procedures to make them more efficient
14 and provide additional safeguards.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 Section 1. Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
18 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

19 § 1208. Pilot program for electronic collection of signatures.

20 (a) Establishment.--A pilot program is established within
21 the department to provide for a system involving the electronic
22 collection of signatures of registered electors for nomination
23 petitions of primary election candidates.

24 (b) Administration.--

25 (1) The department shall administer the pilot program
26 which shall involve voting districts that are representative
27 of this Commonwealth and include rural, suburban and urban
28 districts in diverse geographical locations across this
29 Commonwealth.

30 (2) The department shall determine the equipment and

1 software necessary to implement the pilot program and provide
2 for the security of information provided electronically.

3 (3) The department may contract with other persons as
4 necessary to develop the equipment and software and provide
5 the technical support to administer the pilot program.

6 (c) Review.--Based on a review of the pilot program, the
7 department shall consider the costs, benefits and feasibility of
8 the establishment of a Statewide system involving the electronic
9 collection of signatures of registered electors for nomination
10 petitions of primary election candidates.

11 (d) Effect.--The procedures governing all voting districts
12 across this Commonwealth shall continue to govern the voting
13 districts selected for the pilot program. For the voting
14 districts selected for the pilot program, the department shall
15 determine how the current system compares to the pilot program
16 regarding the collection and verification of signatures.

17 (e) Report.--No later than six months after the expiration
18 of the pilot program, the department shall issue a report to the
19 General Assembly containing the findings and recommendations of
20 the department as a result of the pilot program, including the
21 costs, benefits and feasibility of a Statewide system.

22 (f) Expiration.--The pilot program under this section shall
23 expire three years from the effective date of this section.

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