

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2137 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY HAHN, R. BROWN AND PICKETT, MARCH 12, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 12, 2018

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," in election districts and polling places, further
 12 providing for public buildings to be used where possible and
 13 portable polling places.

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

16 Section 1. Section 527(a) of the act of June 3, 1937
 17 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is
 18 amended to read:

19 Section 527. Public Buildings to Be Used Where Possible;
 20 Portable Polling Places.--(a) In selecting polling places, the
 21 county board of elections shall, wherever possible and
 22 practicable, select [schoolhouses,] municipal buildings or
 23 rooms, or other public buildings for that purpose. Any board of
 24 public education or school directors, or county or the municipal

1 authorities shall, upon request of the county board, make
2 arrangements for the use of school property, or of county or
3 municipal property for polling places. In selecting polling
4 places, the county board of elections shall make every effort to
5 avoid selecting schoolhouses as polling places and to select
6 polling places that provide all electors and other persons who
7 may be lawfully present within the polling place with an
8 environment that is free from intimidation and violence.

9 In the event no available public building as contemplated
10 under this section is situated within the boundaries of any
11 election district, the county board of elections may, not less
12 than twenty days prior to any election, designate as the polling
13 place for such election district any such public building
14 situated in another election district within the same or
15 immediately adjacent ward, or, if there are no wards, then
16 within the same borough or township as the case may be, provided
17 such other building is located in an election district which is
18 immediately adjacent to the boundary of the election district
19 for which it is to be the polling place and is directly
20 accessible therefrom by public street or thoroughfare. Two or
21 more polling places may be located in the same public building
22 under this section. A polling place may be selected and
23 designated hereunder less than twenty days prior to any
24 election, with the approval of a court of competent
25 jurisdiction.

26 * * *

27 Section 2. This act shall apply to elections occurring at
28 least 60 days after the effective date of this section.

29 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.