
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2194 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, CIRESI, FREEMAN, GUENST, HARRIS,
KINSEY, MADDEN, SAMUELSON AND SANCHEZ, DECEMBER 22, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, DECEMBER 22, 2021

AN ACT

1 Providing for interpretive statements for ballots questions.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Local

6 Referendum Transparency Act.

7 Section 2. Definitions.

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

11 "Governing body." As defined under 53 Pa.C.S. § 2902
12 (relating to definitions).

13 "Interpretive statement." An interpretation of a ballot
14 question phrased in simple language such that the public clearly
15 and with sufficient notice understands the matter being voted
16 on. The term shall include, if applicable, a language
17 translation if a municipality falls under section 203 of the

1 Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Public law 89-110, 52 U.S.C. § 10301
2 et seq.) as determined by the United States Census Bureau.

3 "Municipality." A county, city, borough, incorporated town,
4 township or home rule, optional plan or optional charter
5 municipality.

6 Section 3. Interpretive statements.

7 All absentee ballots and mail-in ballots in a municipality
8 used in accordance with the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333,
9 No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, shall include
10 interpretive statements of any ballot questions presented by the
11 municipality. All interpretive statements, prior to inclusion in
12 an absentee or mail-in ballot, shall be approved by a majority
13 of the governing body of the municipality.

14 Section 4. Effective date.

15 This act shall take effect in 60 days.