

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 558

Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY GARZIA, TENAGLIO, MORRIS, MILLIRON, D. R. WRIGHT,
O'KEEFE, CAPUTO, KOLTER AND DOYLE, MARCH 8, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 8, 1977

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 29, 1937 (P.L.487, No.115), entitled,
2 as amended, "An act to provide for the permanent personal
3 registration of electors in cities of the second class,
4 cities of the second class A, cities of the third class,
5 boroughs, towns, and townships as a condition of their right
6 to vote at elections and primaries, and their enrollment as
7 members of political parties as a further condition of their
8 right to vote at primaries; prescribing certain procedure for
9 the conduct of elections and primaries and the challenge and
10 proof of qualifications of electors; requiring the county
11 commissioners of the various counties to act as a
12 registration commission therefor; and prescribing the powers
13 and duties of citizens, parties, political bodies,
14 registration commissions, commissioners, registrars,
15 inspectors of registration and other appointees of
16 registration commissions, county election boards, election
17 officers, municipal officers, departments and bureaus, police
18 officers, courts, judges, prothonotaries, sheriffs, county
19 commissioners, peace officers, county treasurers, county
20 controllers, registrars of vital statistics, certain public
21 utility corporations, real estate brokers, rental agents, and
22 boards of school directors; and imposing penalties,"
23 providing for changes in party enrollments by use of mail
24 registration cards.

25 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
26 hereby enacts as follows:

27 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 18.1, subsection (b) of
28 section 18.2, and subsection (a) of section 28, act of April 29,
29 1937 (P.L.487, No.115), known as "The Permanent Registration Act

1 for Cities of the Second Class, Cities of the Second Class A,
2 Cities of the Third Class, Boroughs, Towns and Townships,"
3 reenacted and amended May 31, 1955 (P.L.62, No.32), and amended
4 July 1, 1976 (No.123), are amended to read:

5 Section 18.1. Manner of Mail Registration by Persons in
6 Military Service, Persons in the Merchant Marine, Persons in
7 Religious and Welfare Groups Officially Attached To and Serving
8 with the Armed Forces and Civilian Federal Personnel Overseas
9 and Their Spouses and Dependents.--In addition to any other
10 method herein provided, the following persons may also be
11 registered by mail in the manner hereinafter set forth under
12 this section: (1) any person in military service, his spouse and
13 dependents; or (2) any person in the Merchant Marine, his spouse
14 and dependents; or (3) any person in religious and welfare
15 groups officially attached to and serving with the armed forces,
16 his spouse and dependents; or (4) any person who is a civilian
17 employee of the United States outside the territorial limits of
18 the several States of the United States and the District of
19 Columbia, whether or not such person is subject to the civil-
20 service laws and the Classification Act of 1949 and whether or
21 not paid from funds appropriated by the Congress, his spouse and
22 dependents.

23 * * *

24 (b) The official registration application card shall require
25 the statement of the applicant, the signature of the applicant,
26 and shall provide sufficient space for the following
27 information: (1) The surname of the applicant, (2) his Christian
28 name or names, (4) the street or road and number, if any, of his
29 home residence and the date of leaving same, providing that, in
30 the event there is no street address, the registrant must list

1 the nearest cross street or road, (5) if his residence was a
2 portion only of a house, the location or number of the room or
3 rooms, apartment, flat or floor which he occupied, (6) the date
4 his residence began at the place which is his home residence,
5 (7) his home residence address when he last registered and the
6 year of such registration, including any former registration
7 under any other surname, (8) the sex of the applicant, (9) the
8 color of the applicant, (10) the state or territory of the
9 United States or the foreign country where he was born, (13)
10 whether he is unable by reason of illiteracy to read the names
11 on the ballot or voting machine labels, (14) whether he has a
12 physical disability which will render him unable to see or mark
13 the ballot or operate the voting machine or to enter the voting
14 compartment or voting machine booth without assistance, and, if
15 so, his declaration of that fact and his statement of the exact
16 nature of such disability, (15) the designation of the political
17 party or the change of a political party of the elector for the
18 purpose of voting at primaries, (16) the declaration of
19 registration, as hereinafter prescribed, which shall be signed
20 by the elector, (17) the height of the applicant in feet and
21 inches, (18) the color of his hair, (19) the color of his eyes,
22 (20) the date of his birth, (21) the designation by the elector
23 that the official registration application card is intended by
24 such elector for use as (check one):

25 / / New Registration
26 / / Change of Address
27 / / Change of Name
28 / / Change of Political Party Enrollment

29 Each official registration [application] card for registration
30 by persons registering under this section shall also have (22) a

1 sufficient number of spaces thereon for the insertion by the
2 commission, but not by the applicant, of the city of the second
3 class, city of the second class A, city of the third class,
4 borough, town, township, ward and election district, if any, in
5 which the applicant resided on the date of leaving home
6 residence and to which he may from time to time remove after
7 returning to his home residence, together with his street
8 address in each city of the second class, city of the second
9 class A, city of the third class, borough, town or township and
10 the other data required to be given upon such removal, (23) the
11 date of each election and primary at which the applicant votes
12 after registration, the number and letter, if any, of the stub
13 of the ballot issued to him, or his number in the order of
14 admission to the voting machines, and (24) the signature or
15 initials of the election officer, commissioner, [register]
16 registrar or clerk, who enters the record of voting on the card.
17 Immediately following the spaces for inserting the information
18 as provided in this subsection, the applicant shall affix his
19 signature exactly as it appears in (1) and (2) of this
20 subsection.

21 * * *

22 Section 18.2. Manner of Mail Registration by Electors Other
23 Than Those Enumerated in Section 18.1 of This Act.--Any elector
24 may, in addition to any other method herein provided, also be
25 registered by mail in the manner set forth in this section:

26 * * *

27 (b) The official registration application card shall require
28 the statement of, and shall provide sufficient space for the
29 following information: (1) The surname of the applicant, (2) his
30 Christian name or names, (4) the street or road and number of

1 his residence and the date of leaving same, providing that, in
2 the event there is no street address, the registrant must list
3 the nearest cross street or road, (5) if his residence is a
4 portion only of a house, the location or number of the room or
5 rooms, apartment, flat or floor which he occupies, (6) the date
6 his residence began at the place at which he resides, (7) his
7 residence address when he last registered and the year of such
8 registration, including any former registration under any other
9 surname, (8) the sex of the applicant, (9) the color of the
10 applicant, (10) the state or territory of the United States or
11 the foreign country where he was born, (13) whether he is unable
12 by reason of illiteracy to read the names on the ballot or on
13 voting machines labels, (14) whether he has a physical
14 disability which will render him unable to see or mark the
15 ballot or operate the voting machine or to enter the voting
16 compartment or voting machine booth without assistance and, if
17 so, his declaration of that fact and his statement of the exact
18 nature of such disability, (15) the designation of the political
19 party or the change of political party of the elector for the
20 purpose of voting at primaries, (16) the declaration of
21 registration as hereinafter prescribed, which shall be signed by
22 the elector, (17) the height of the applicant in feet and
23 inches, (18) the color of his hair, (19) the color of his eyes,
24 (20) the date of his birth, (21) the designation by the elector
25 that the official registration application card is intended by
26 such elector for use as (check one):

27 / / New Registration
28 / / Change of Address
29 / / Change of Name
30 / / Change of Party Enrollment

1 Each official registration [application] card for electors
2 registering in the manner prescribed by this section shall also
3 have a sufficient number of spaces thereon for the insertion of
4 (22) the city of the second class, city of the second class A,
5 city of the third class, borough, town, township, ward and
6 election district, if any, in which the applicant resides and to
7 which he may, from time to time, remove together with his street
8 address in each city of the second class, city of the second
9 class A, city of the third class, borough, town or township, and
10 the other data required to be given upon such removal, (23) the
11 date of each election and primary at which the applicant votes
12 after registration, the number and letter, if any, of the stub
13 of the ballot issued to him or his number in the order of
14 admission to the voting machines, and (24) the signature or
15 initials of the election officer, commissioner, registrar or
16 clerk, who enters the record of voting on the card. Immediately
17 following the spaces for inserting the information as provided
18 in this subsection, the applicant shall affix his signature
19 exactly as it appears in (1) and (2) of this subsection.

20 * * *

21 Section 28. Change of Enrollment of Political Party;
22 Cancellation of Party Enrollment; Persons Suffering Disability
23 After Registration to Have Fact Recorded; Cancellation.--

24 (a) At any time prior to the thirtieth day next preceding a
25 primary or an election, any person who desires to change the
26 enrollment of his political designation, or who, although
27 registered, has not hitherto enrolled as a member of a party,
28 may appear before a registrar, commissioner or clerk and state
29 in writing or through the use of the mail registration card to
30 change party enrollment, over his signature, the political party

1 in which he desires to be enrolled, and the registrar,
2 commissioner or clerk shall cause the enrollment of the
3 elector's political designation to be made or altered
4 accordingly in the general and district registers. The signature
5 of the elector shall be verified by comparison with his
6 signature on the general and district registers before the
7 change of enrollment is made. Any elector desiring to change his
8 party enrollment who is unable to sign his application, [he]
9 shall make his mark thereto in the presence of the registrar,
10 commissioner or clerk, and shall produce such other evidence as
11 may be necessary to establish his identity.

12 * * *

13 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.