

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 605

Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY HOFFEL, BROWN, POLITE, J. L. WRIGHT,
O'DONNELL, FLAHERTY, REED, DOYLE, HASKELL, DeMEDIO, MEBUS,
ZITTERMAN, STUBAN, GLEESON, M. H. GEORGE, MELUSKEY, WISE,
GOEBEL, RUGGIERO, STAPLETON, OLIVER, WHITE, O'KEEFE, FISHER,
HOPKINS AND GAMBLE, MARCH 14, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 14, 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 that any elector may change enrollment of political
24 party by mail.

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

1 section 18.2, subsections (c), (f) and (g) of section 18.3, and
2 subsection (a) of section 28, act of April 29, 1937 (P.L.487,
3 No.115), known as "The Permanent Registration Act for Cities of
4 the Second Class, Cities of the Second Class A, Cities of the
5 Third Class, Boroughs, Towns and Townships," reenacted and
6 amended May 31, 1955 (P.L.62, No.32) and amended or added July
7 1, 1976 (No.123), are amended to read:

8 Section 18.1. Manner of Mail Registration by Persons in
9 Military Service, Persons in the Merchant Marine, Persons in
10 Religious and Welfare Groups Officially Attached To and Serving
11 with the Armed Forces and Civilian Federal Personnel Overseas
12 and Their Spouses and Dependents.--* * *

13 (b) The official registration application card shall require
14 the statement of the applicant, the signature of the applicant,
15 and shall provide sufficient space for the following
16 information: (1) The surname of the applicant, (2) his Christian
17 name or names, (4) the street or road and number, if any, of his
18 home residence and the date of leaving same, providing that, in
19 the event there is no street address, the registrant must list
20 the nearest cross street or road, (5) if his residence was a
21 portion only of a house, the location or number of the room or
22 rooms, apartment, flat or floor which he occupied, (6) the date
23 his residence began at the place which is his home residence,
24 (7) his home residence address when he last registered and the
25 year of such registration, including any former registration
26 under any other surname, (8) the sex of the applicant, (9) the
27 color of the applicant, (10) the state or territory of the
28 United States or the foreign country where he was born, (13)
29 whether he is unable by reason of illiteracy to read the names
30 on the ballot or voting machine labels, (14) whether he has a

1 physical disability which will render him unable to see or mark
2 the ballot or operate the voting machine or to enter the voting
3 compartment or voting machine booth without assistance, and, if
4 so, his declaration of that fact and his statement of the exact
5 nature of such disability, (15) the designation of the political
6 party of the elector for the purpose of voting at primaries,
7 (16) the declaration of registration, as hereinafter prescribed,
8 which shall be signed by the elector, (17) the height of the
9 applicant in feet and inches, (18) the color of his hair, (19)
10 the color of his eyes, (20) the date of his birth, (21) the
11 designation by the elector that the official registration
12 application card is intended by such elector for use as (check
13 one):

14 / / New Registration
15 / / Change of Address
16 / / Change of Name
17 / / Change of Political Party

18 Affiliation

19 Each official registration application card for registration by
20 persons registering under this section shall also have (22) a
21 sufficient number of spaces thereon for the insertion by the
22 commission, but not by the applicant, of the city of the second
23 class, city of the second class A, city of the third class,
24 borough, town, township, ward and election district, if any, in
25 which the applicant resided on the date of leaving home
26 residence and to which he may from time to time remove after
27 returning to his home residence, together with his street
28 address in each city of the second class, city of the second
29 class A, city of the third class, borough, town or township and
30 the other data required to be given upon such removal, (23) the

1 date of each election and primary at which the applicant votes
2 after registration, the number and letter, if any, of the stub
3 of the ballot issued to him, or his number in the order of
4 admission to the voting machines, and (24) the signature or
5 initials of the election officer, commissioner, register or
6 clerk, who enters the record of voting on the card. Immediately
7 following the spaces for inserting the information as provided
8 in this subsection, the applicant shall affix his signature
9 exactly as it appears in (1) and (2) of this subsection.

10 * * *

11 Section 18.2. Manner of Mail Registration by Electors Other
12 Than Those Enumerated in Section 18.1 of This Act.--* * *

13 (b) The official registration application card shall require
14 the statement of, and shall provide sufficient space for the
15 following information: (1) The surname of the applicant, (2) his
16 Christian name or names, (4) the street or road and number of
17 his residence and the date of leaving same, providing that, in
18 the event there is no street address, the registrant must list
19 the nearest cross street or road, (5) if his residence is a
20 portion only of a house, the location or number of the room or
21 rooms, apartment, flat or floor which he occupies, (6) the date
22 his residence began at the place at which he resides, (7) his
23 residence address when he last registered and the year of such
24 registration, including any former registration under any other
25 surname, (8) the sex of the applicant, (9) the color of the
26 applicant, (10) the state or territory of the United States or
27 the foreign country where he was born, (13) whether he is unable
28 by reason of illiteracy to read the names on the ballot or on
29 voting machines labels, (14) whether he has a physical
30 disability which will render him unable to see or mark the

1 ballot or operate the voting machine or to enter the voting
2 compartment or voting machine booth without assistance and, if
3 so, his declaration of that fact and his statement of the exact
4 nature of such disability, (15) the designation of the political
5 party of the elector for the purpose of voting at primaries,
6 (16) the declaration of registration as hereinafter prescribed
7 which shall be signed by the elector, (17) the height of the
8 applicant in feet and inches, (18) the color of his hair, (19)
9 the color of his eyes, (20) the date of his birth, (21) the
10 designation by the elector that the official registration
11 application card is intended by such elector for use as (check
12 one):

13 / / New Registration
14 / / Change of Address
15 / / Change of Name
16 / / Change of Political Party

17 Affiliation

18 Each official registration application card for electors
19 registering in the manner prescribed by this section shall also
20 have a sufficient number of spaces thereon for the insertion of
21 (22) the city of the second class, city of the second class A,
22 city of the third class, borough, town, township, ward and
23 election district, if any, in which the applicant resides and to
24 which he may, from time to time, remove together with his street
25 address in each city of the second class, city of the second
26 class A, city of the third class, borough, town or township, and
27 the other data required to be given upon such removal, (23) the
28 date of each election and primary at which the applicant votes
29 after registration, the number and letter, if any, of the stub
30 of the ballot issued to him or his number in the order of

1 admission to the voting machines, and (24) the signature or
2 initials of the election officer, commissioner, registrar or
3 clerk, who enters the record of voting on the card. Immediately
4 following the spaces for inserting the information as provided
5 in this subsection, the applicant shall affix his signature
6 exactly as it appears in (1) and (2) of this subsection.

7 * * *

8 Section 18.3. Approval of Official Registration Application
9 Cards.--* * *

10 (c) If the application card is intended by the applicant as
11 a transfer of registration and shall contain the required
12 information, and the applicant is legally qualified to transfer
13 his registration as stated in his application, the commission
14 shall thereupon make such transfer. If the application card is
15 intended by the applicant as a change of political party
16 enrollment and contains the required information, the commission
17 shall change the party enrollment in accordance with such
18 application effective no later than the next primary election.

19 * * *

20 (f) If the registration commission suspects that for any
21 reason the applicant is not entitled to registration, change of
22 party affiliation, change of address or change of name, the
23 commission may cause an investigation to be made in reference
24 thereto.

25 (g) If the commission shall find that the applicant is not
26 qualified to register, change party affiliation, change address
27 or change name, the application shall be rejected and the
28 applicant notified of such rejection with the reason therefor,
29 provided that such rejection must be made no later than ten days
30 before the ensuing primary or election succeeding the filing of

1 the application.

2 * * *

3 Section 28. Change of Enrollment of Political Party;
4 Cancellation of Party Enrollment; Persons Suffering Disability
5 After Registration to Have Fact Recorded; Cancellation.--

6 (a) At any time prior to the thirtieth day next preceding a
7 primary or an election, any person who desires to change the
8 enrollment of his political designation, or who, although
9 registered, has not hitherto enrolled as a member of a party,
10 may appear before a registrar, commissioner or clerk and state
11 in writing, over his signature, the political party in which he
12 desires to be enrolled, and the registrar, commissioner or clerk
13 shall cause the enrollment of the elector's political
14 designation to be made or altered accordingly in the general and
15 district registers: Provided, however, That an official
16 registration application card of any elector who has registered
17 by mail may qualify as a change of his political party
18 enrollment. The signature of the elector shall be verified by
19 comparison with his signature on the general and district
20 registers before the change of enrollment is made. Any elector
21 desiring to change his party enrollment by personal application
22 who is unable to sign his application, he shall make his mark
23 thereto in the presence of the registrar, commissioner or clerk,
24 and shall produce such other evidence as may be necessary to
25 establish his identity.

26 * * *

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 30 days.