

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 376

Session of
1981

INTRODUCED BY W. D. HUTCHINSON, CLARK, NOYE, DIETZ, MRKONIC,
JACKSON, COLE, McINTYRE, KLINGAMAN, PITTS, MADIGAN, RASCO,
PRATT, COCHRAN, LEVI, D. R. WRIGHT, MOWERY, MACKOWSKI,
GAMBLE, W. W. FOSTER, ARTY, RITTER, PICCOLA, CESSAR, WILSON,
E. Z. TAYLOR, HEISER, BOWSER, PETERSON, HOFFEL, GLADECK,
HONAMAN, VROON, PUNT, SMITH, LEVIN, ALDEN, CUNNINGHAM,
CLYMER AND FRYER, FEBRUARY 3, 1981

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 9, 1981

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," removing cross-filing by candidates for the
12 office of judges, school board directors or justices of the
13 peace.

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

16 ~~Section 1. Section 910, act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333,~~ <—
17 ~~No.320), known as the "Pennsylvania Election Code," amended July~~
18 ~~11, 1980 (No.127), is amended to read:~~

19 SECTION 1. SECTION 909, ACT OF JUNE 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, <—
20 NO.320), KNOWN AS THE "PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION CODE," AMENDED

1 DECEMBER 22, 1971 (P.L.613, NO.165), IS AMENDED TO READ:

2 SECTION 909. PETITION MAY CONSIST OF SEVERAL SHEETS;
3 AFFIDAVIT OF CIRCULATOR.--SAID NOMINATION PETITION MAY BE ON ONE
4 OR MORE SHEETS, AND DIFFERENT SHEETS MUST BE USED FOR SIGNERS
5 RESIDENT IN DIFFERENT COUNTIES. IF MORE THAN ONE SHEET IS USED,
6 THEY SHALL BE BOUND TOGETHER WHEN OFFERED FOR FILING IF THEY ARE
7 INTENDED TO CONSTITUTE ONE PETITION, AND EACH SHEET SHALL BE
8 NUMBERED CONSECUTIVELY BEGINNING WITH NUMBER ONE, AT THE FOOT OF
9 EACH PAGE. IN CASES OF PETITIONS FOR DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE
10 DELEGATE TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS, EACH SHEET SHALL CONTAIN A
11 NOTATION INDICATING THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TO WHOM HE IS
12 COMMITTED OR THE TERM "UNCOMMITTED." EACH SHEET SHALL HAVE
13 APPENDED THERETO THE AFFIDAVIT OF THE CIRCULATOR OF EACH SHEET,
14 SETTING FORTH--(A) THAT HE OR SHE IS A QUALIFIED ELECTOR DULY
15 REGISTERED AND ENROLLED AS A MEMBER OF THE DESIGNATED PARTY OF
16 THE STATE, OR OF THE POLITICAL DISTRICT, AS THE CASE MAY BE,
17 REFERRED TO IN SAID PETITION[, UNLESS SAID PETITION RELATES TO
18 THE NOMINATION OF A JUDICIAL CANDIDATE IN WHICH EVENT THE
19 CIRCULATOR NEED NOT BE A DULY REGISTERED AND ENROLLED MEMBER OF
20 THE DESIGNATED PARTY]; (B) HIS RESIDENCE, GIVING CITY, BOROUGH
21 OR TOWNSHIP, WITH STREET AND NUMBER, IF ANY; (C) THAT THE
22 SIGNERS THERETO SIGNED WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONTENTS OF
23 THE PETITION; (D) THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE RESIDENCES ARE CORRECTLY
24 STATED THEREIN; (E) THAT THEY ALL RESIDE IN THE COUNTY NAMED IN
25 THE AFFIDAVIT; (F) THAT EACH SIGNED ON THE DATE SET OPPOSITE HIS
26 NAME; AND (G) THAT, TO THE BEST OF AFFIANT'S KNOWLEDGE AND
27 BELIEF, THE SIGNERS ARE QUALIFIED ELECTORS AND DULY REGISTERED
28 AND ENROLLED MEMBERS OF THE DESIGNATED PARTY OF THE STATE, OR OF
29 THE POLITICAL DISTRICT, AS THE CASE MAY BE.

30 SECTION 2. SECTION 910 OF THE ACT, AMENDED JULY 11, 1980

1 (NO.127), IS AMENDED TO READ:

2 Section 910. Affidavits of Candidates.--Each candidate for
3 any State, county, city, borough, incorporated town, township,
4 ward, school district, poor district, election district, party
5 office, party delegate or alternate, or for the office of United
6 States Senator or Representative in Congress, shall file with
7 his nomination petition his affidavit stating--(a) his
8 residence, with street and number, if any, and his post-office
9 address; (b) his election district, giving city, borough, town
10 or township; (c) the name of the office for which he consents to
11 be a candidate; (d) that he is eligible for such office; (e)
12 that he will not knowingly violate any provision of this act, or
13 of any law regulating and limiting nomination and election
14 expenses and prohibiting corrupt practices in connection
15 therewith; (f) [unless he is a candidate for judge of a court of
16 record, or for the office of school director in a district where
17 that office is elective or for the office of justice of the
18 peace] that he is not a candidate for nomination for the same
19 office of any party other than the one designated in such
20 petition; (g) if he is a candidate for a delegate, or alternate
21 delegate, member of State committee, National committee or party
22 officer, that he is a registered and enrolled member of the
23 designated party; (h) if he is a candidate for delegate or
24 alternate delegate the presidential candidate to whom he is
25 committed or the term "uncommitted"; and (i) that he is aware of
26 the provisions of section 1626 of this act requiring pre-
27 election and post-election reporting of campaign contributions
28 and expenditures. In cases of petitions for delegate and
29 alternate delegate to National conventions, the candidate's
30 affidavit shall state that his signature to the delegate's

1 statement, as hereinafter set forth, if such statement is signed
2 by said candidate, was affixed to the sheet or sheets of said
3 petition prior to the circulation of same. In the case of a
4 candidate for nomination as President of the United States, it
5 shall not be necessary for such candidate to file the affidavit
6 required in this section to be filed by candidates, but the
7 post-office address of such candidate shall be stated in such
8 nomination petition.

9 Section ~~2~~ 3. The first paragraph of section 976, subsection <—
10 (a) of section 993, subsections (a) and (b) of section 998 of
11 the act, amended June 27, 1974 (P.L.413, No.146), are amended to
12 read:

13 Section 976. Examination of Nomination Petitions,
14 Certificates and Papers; Return of Rejected Nomination
15 Petitions, Certificates and Papers.--When any nomination
16 petition, nomination certificate or nomination paper is
17 presented in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth or
18 of any county board of elections for filing within the period
19 limited by this act, it shall be the duty of the said officer or
20 board to examine the same. No nomination petition, nomination
21 paper or nomination certificate shall be permitted to be filed
22 if--(a) it contains material errors or defects apparent on the
23 face thereof, or on the face of the appended or accompanying
24 affidavits; or (b) it contains material alterations made after
25 signing without the consent of the signers; or (c) it does not
26 contain a sufficient number of signatures as required by law;
27 Provided, however, That the Secretary of the Commonwealth or the
28 county board of elections, although not hereby required so to
29 do, may question the genuineness of any signature or signatures
30 appearing thereon, and if he or it shall thereupon find that any

1 such signature or signatures are not genuine, such signature or
2 signatures shall be disregarded in determining whether the
3 nomination petition, nomination paper or nomination certificate
4 contains a sufficient number of signatures as required by law;
5 or (d) in the case of nomination petitions, if nomination
6 petitions have been filed for printing the name of the same
7 person for the same office, [except the office of judge of a
8 court of record, or the office of school director in districts
9 where that office is elective or the office of justice of the
10 peace] upon the official ballot of more than one political
11 party; or (e) in the case of nomination papers, if the candidate
12 named therein has filed a nomination petition for any public
13 office for the ensuing primary, or has been nominated for any
14 such office by nomination papers previously filed; or (f) if the
15 nomination petitions or papers are not accompanied by the filing
16 fee or certified check required for said office; or (g) in the
17 case of nomination papers, the appellation set forth therein is
18 identical with or deceptively similar to the words used by any
19 existing party or by any political body which has already filed
20 nomination papers for the same office, or if the appellation set
21 forth therein contains part of the name, or an abbreviation of
22 the name or part of the name of an existing political party, or
23 of a political body which has already filed nomination papers
24 for the same office. The invalidity of any sheet of a nomination
25 petition or nomination paper shall not affect the validity of
26 such petition or paper if a sufficient petition or paper remains
27 after eliminating such invalid sheet. The action of said officer
28 or board in refusing to receive and file any such nomination
29 petition, certificate or paper, may be reviewed by the court
30 upon an application to compel its reception as of the date when

1 it was presented to the office of such officer or board:
2 Provided, however, That said officer or board shall be entitled
3 to a reasonable time in which to examine any petitions,
4 certificates or papers, and to summon and interrogate the
5 candidates named therein, or the persons presenting said
6 petitions, certificates or papers, and his or their retention of
7 same for the purpose of making such examination or interrogation
8 shall not be construed as an acceptance or filing.

9 * * *

10 Section 993. Filling of Certain Vacancies in Public Office
11 by Means of Nomination Certificates and Nomination Papers.--(a)
12 In all cases where a vacancy shall occur for any cause in an
13 elective public office, including that of judge of a court of
14 record, at a time when such vacancy is required by the
15 provisions of the Constitution or the laws of this Commonwealth
16 to be filled at the ensuing election but at a time when
17 nominations for such office cannot be made under any other
18 provision of this act, nominations to fill such vacancies shall
19 be made by political parties in accordance with party rules
20 relating to the filling of vacancies by means of nomination
21 certificates in the form prescribed in section nine hundred
22 ninety-four of this act, and by political bodies by means of
23 nomination papers in accordance with the provisions of sections
24 nine hundred fifty-one, nine hundred fifty-two and nine hundred
25 fifty-four of this act. No such nomination certificate shall
26 nominate any person who has already been nominated by any other
27 political party or by any political body for the same office
28 [unless such person is a candidate for the office of judge of a
29 court of record or the office of school director in districts
30 where that office is elective or for the office of justice of

1 the peace]. No such nomination papers shall nominate any person
2 who has already been nominated by any political party or by any
3 other political body for any office to be filled at the ensuing
4 November election[, unless such person is a candidate for the
5 office of judge of a court of record or the office of school
6 director in districts where that office is elective or for the
7 office of justice of the peace].

8 * * *

9 Section 998. Substituted Nominations to Fill Certain
10 Vacancies for a November Election.--(a) Any vacancy happening or
11 existing in any party nomination made in accordance with the
12 provisions of section nine hundred ninety-three of this act for
13 a November election by reason of the death or withdrawal of any
14 candidate may be filled by a substituted nomination made by such
15 committee as is authorized by the rules of the party to make
16 nominations in the event of vacancies on the party ticket, in
17 the form prescribed by section nine hundred ninety-four of this
18 act. [But no] NO substituted nomination certificate shall <—
19 nominate any person who has already been nominated by any other
20 political party or by any political body for the same office[,
21 unless such person is a candidate for the office of judge of a
22 court of record or for the office of school director in
23 districts where that office is elective or for the office of
24 justice of the peace].

25 (b) In case of the death or withdrawal of any candidate
26 nominated by a political body for an election, the committee
27 named in the original nomination papers may nominate a
28 substitute in his place by filing a substituted nomination
29 certificate in the form and manner prescribed by section nine
30 hundred eighty of this act. In the case of a vacancy caused by

1 the death of any candidate, said nomination certificate shall be
2 accompanied by a death certificate properly certified. No
3 substituted nomination certificate shall nominate any person who
4 has already been nominated by any political party or by any
5 other political body for any office to be filled at the ensuing
6 November election[, unless such person is a candidate for the
7 office of judge of a court of record or for the office of school
8 director in districts where that office is elective or for the
9 office of justice of the peace].

10 * * *

11 Section ~~3~~ 4. Section 1004 of the act, amended December 10, <—
12 1974 (P.L.835, No.280), is amended to read:

13 Section 1004. Form of Ballots; Printing Ballots; Stubs;
14 Numbers.--From the lists furnished by the Secretary of the
15 Commonwealth under the provisions of sections 915 and 984, and
16 from petitions and papers filed in their office, the county
17 election board shall print the official primary and election
18 ballots in accordance with the provisions of this act: Provided,
19 however, That in no event, shall the name of any person
20 consenting to be a candidate for nomination for any one office[,
21 except the office of judge of a court of record, or the office
22 of school director in districts where that office is elective or
23 the office of justice of the peace] be printed as a candidate
24 for such office upon the official primary ballot of more than
25 one party. All ballots for use in the same election district at
26 any primary or election shall be alike. They shall be at least
27 six inches long and four inches wide, and shall have a margin
28 extending beyond any printing thereon. They shall be printed
29 with the same kind of type (which shall not be smaller than the
30 size known as "brevier" or "eight point body") upon white paper

1 of uniform quality, without any impression or mark to
2 distinguish one from another, and with sufficient thickness to
3 prevent the printed matter from showing through. Each ballot
4 shall be attached to a stub, and all the ballots for the same
5 election district shall be bound together in books of fifty, in
6 such manner that each ballot may be detached from its stub and
7 removed separately. The ballots for each party to be used at a
8 primary shall be bound separately. The stubs of the ballots
9 shall be consecutively numbered, and in the case of primary
10 ballots, the number shall be preceded by an initial or
11 abbreviation designating the party name. The number and initial
12 or abbreviation which appears upon the stub shall also be
13 printed in the upper right hand corner of the back of the
14 ballot, separated from the remainder of the ballot by a diagonal
15 perforated line so prepared that the upper right hand corner of
16 the back of the ballot containing the number may be detached
17 from the ballot before it is deposited in the ballot box and
18 beside that corner shall also be printed, "Remove numbered stub
19 immediately before depositing your ballot in ballot box."

20 Section 4 5. This act shall take effect ~~in 60 days.~~ JANUARY <—
21 1, 1982.